

Generator Safety

Key Safety Guidelines

Placement and Ventilation

Generators must be used outdoors in a well-ventilated area, at least 15 – 20 feet away from windows, doors, and vents to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Never operate a generator inside your home, garage, or shed, even with doors or windows open.

Consider using a canopy or generator tent to protect it from rain while ensuring proper airflow.

Carbon Monoxide Precautions

Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, and deadly gas. Install battery-operated CO alarms in your home and garage to alert you to dangerous levels. If you feel dizzy, weak, or nauseous while using a generator, move to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention if symptoms persist.

Refueling Safety

Never refuel a generator while it is running or hot. Allow it to cool for several minutes before adding fuel to prevent fires or explosions. Use only the fuel recommendation by the manufacturer and store it in approved containers.

Electrical Safety

- Do not plug a generator into a home outlet, this can cause back feeding, endangering utility workers and damaging appliances.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords to connect appliances directly to the generator.
- If connecting to your home's electrical system, hire a licensed electrician to install an approved automatic transfer switch.

Maintenance and Preparation

Regularly inspect and maintain your generator, including oil changes, air filters, and spark plug. Test it periodically before hurricane season to ensure it operates reliably. Keep spare parts and fuel stabilizers on hand.

Weather Protection

Operate generators on a dry, level surface. Avoid running them in rain or wet conditions to prevent electric shock. Ensure your hands are dry when handling the generator.