

# GENERATOR SAFETY

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## Safety Tips For Using a Portable Generator

A gas powered electric generator can be a huge asset to have when power goes out. Below are a few key points to follow for a safer setup while using your generator.



### Know the Right Generator Size For Your Needs

Choose a generator that produces more amps than you need. Know the necessary home components that need to be plugged in and find a generator to handle your electric load. Keep in mind your starting watts needed to start a furnace, water heater, or other large appliances. Overloading a generator is a fire hazard and can cause damage to the unit or in severe cases, the generator could explode.



### Safe Setup of Your Generator

Portable generators should be placed outdoors, 20 feet away from your homes doors, windows, vents and air conditioning system. Direct the exhaust away from your home. An outside porch or carport is still too close to your home.



### Keep the Generator Dry During Operation

Do not use the generator where it will be exposed to rain, snow or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under a covered patio or an open canopy structure, away from windows and doors. Do not touch the generator with wet hands as it could cause electrocution.



### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety

Carbon Monoxide is a poisonous gas that cannot be seen and is odorless. Proper placement and adequate ventilation is critical when using a generator. NEVER use a generator indoors, even if the doors and/or windows are open. Be sure you have carbon monoxide detectors installed on each floor of your home and within 15 feet of every bedroom. NEVER ignore an alarm from a CO detector.



### Extension Cord Safety

Use heavy duty extension cords that are properly grounded and in good condition. A damaged cord can cause electrocution and become a fire hazard. Do not cover cords with rugs or tape. Position cords so they are not a tripping hazard. And NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet!



### Symptoms of CO Poisoning

If you start to feel sick, weak, experience confusion or dizziness while using a generator, move to fresh outdoor air immediately. **CALL 911** right away if the person is non-responsive and seek medical attention.

**ALWAYS read your generator's safety manual for proper use and guidelines for your specific unit.**