

Generator Safety Tips to Simplify Your Life



 Alabama Power



Safety Begins with You

Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions, know about potential hazards, take the proper precautions and fully understand how to use your generator. Always have an authorized dealer install and maintain the equipment. Keep the following rules in mind:

Safety First

- Plug individual appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load.
- Only allow licensed electrical contractors or dealers to connect a generator to your home's wiring. Request and ensure the contractor has installed an approved automatic transfer switch to disconnect your home wiring from the utility system to prevent your generator from feeding back into utility wires, creating a deadly threat to power line crews. Portable generators with an approved transfer switch will safely disconnect your home's wiring from the utility system.
- Make sure the generator is in proper working condition before use. Annual servicing by an authorized dealer is recommended.
- Always store flammable fuel in a proper container in a well-ventilated area.
- Never attempt to remove your home's electric meter.



Do's and don'ts of portable generators

Designed to provide power to a small number of selected appliances, portable generators should always be properly vented, away from your home's air-intake source. Only buy a portable generator from a reputable dealer who can service and maintain the unit. Here are more helpful hints for safe usage:



- A portable electric generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.
- Never wire a portable generator directly to your home's electric service entrance panel or connect it to a circuit through a regular household outlet. Plugging a generator into a regular household outlet can energize "dead" power lines and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Don't overload the generator with more appliances and equipment than the generator's output rating.
- Don't use a generator indoors or in an attached garage. Make sure it's placed outdoors in a dry, well-ventilated area, away from your home's air intakes so exhaust fumes don't enter the home.
- Don't store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it's running.
- To prevent electrical shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded. Consult the manufacturer's manual for correct grounding procedures.

Remember These Important Quick Tips



- **Never plug a portable generator directly into your home's wiring. That is called backfeed and can get someone killed.**
- **Use a portable generator outside, away from your home's doors and windows.**
- **Don't overload a portable generator with more appliances than it's rated for.**

To speak with a
representative,
contact
Customer Service
at 1-800-245-2244.

Visit us on the web at
www.AlabamaPower.com/safety.



Alabama
Power

