



Generator Safety Tips To Simplify Your Life



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Safety begins with you

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

- Plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Use heavy-duty extension cords, in good working condition, with a wire gauge that is adequate to handle the electric load of any appliances connected to them.
- 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's wiring from the utility system. This switch must be used before starting the generator. Without an automatic transfer switch, power from your generator can feed back into utility wires, creating a deadly threat to power line crews.
- Never attempt to remove your home's electric meter.

- 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.

Do's and don'ts of portable generators

Designed to provide power to a small number of selected appliances or lights, 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, or you'll risk damaging these items.

- Never 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.
- Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load.
- To prevent electrical shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded. Consult your manufacturer's manual for correct grounding procedures.
- Don't store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it's running.

For more information:
Call Alabama Power at
1-800-888-APCO (2726).

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

Visit us on the Web at
www.AlabamaPower.com.



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