



Your Guide to Using a Home Generator

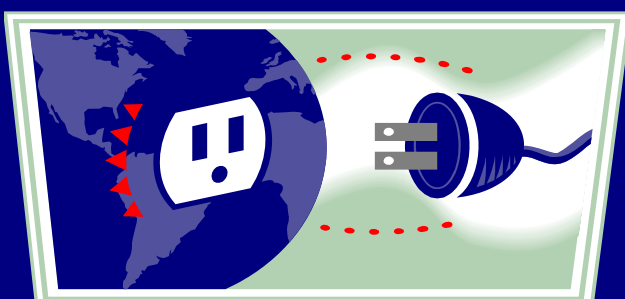
Some customers prepare for the possibility of power outages by buying an electric generator as a standby system to keep lights on and appliances running until service is restored. During a prolonged outage, a generator may be able to save food in your refrigerator or freezer, let you keep your home office running or power other essential equipment. However, before using a generator for emergency home use, consider these issues:

- **Never plug in your generator into your home's electrical system.** If you improperly connect an emergency standby generator to your main electrical supply, it could "back feed" into your utility's power system and possibly injure or kill you, your neighbors or electric utility crews working to restore power to you for a permanent installation. Only a qualified, licensed electrician should attempt to connect a standby generator to your main home wiring after appropriate permits have been obtained from the city and notices have been given to the Electrical, Police and Fire departments. **For temporary use, such as unscheduled outages, appliances should be connected directly to the generator using a heavy duty extension cord.**
- **Check the noise output of the generator.** Noisy generator may violate the City of Lompoc's noise ordinance. Check the city's municipal code, "Title 8 HEALTH AND SAFETY," section 8.08 in the city's web site or call the city's Code Enforcement with the building division at (805) 757-8220.
- **Have a working fire extinguisher certified for electrical and fuel fires in the immediate area.**

PRACTICAL TIPS

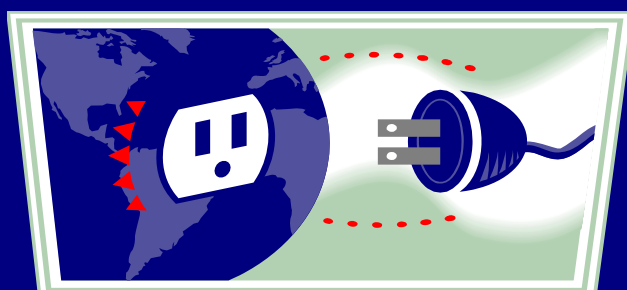
In addition to selecting and installing your generator safely, there are several important safety rules to follow when operating the generator.

- Always read and follow the guidelines in your operator's manual.
- Know how to shut the generator off quickly in case of emergency.
- Never modify a generator in any way.
- Never refuel a generator while it is running or hot.
- Periodically run the generator to assure it will start and run properly.
- Use adequately sized extension cords.
- Operate the generator in the open—never in a building or enclosure.
- Set the generator on a firm, level surface.



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IF YOU DO THIS	THIS COULD HAPPEN	HOW TO PREVENT IT
Attempt to connect generator directly to the electrical system of any building.	It could kill or injure a person repairing service lines. The electricity a customer generates could back feed through the building's electrical system to the outside utility feed lines. Attempting to connect to the incoming utility service could result in electrocution. If Lompoc's Electric line crew is restoring electrical service while your generator is connected to the incoming utility service, you could start a fire or seriously damage your property.	A qualified, licensed electrician must install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch with a visible and lockable disconnect in order to connect the generator to a building's electrical system. This is required by the National Electrical Code. The connection must also meet local ordinances. A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used. NOTE- only a licensed electrician can connect a generator to the main power supply.
Fail to ground the generator's electrical system adequately	The entire generator could become electrically charged and cause electrocution.	Make sure that the unit is connected to an appropriate electrical ground in accordance with the National Electric Code. Follow the instructions supplied with the electrical generator.
Operate generator in rain, wet or flooded conditions	Water conducts electricity. If water comes in contact with electricity at the generator's frame and other surfaces, it could cause an electrical shock to anyone touching them.	Operate generator in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. Make sure your hands are dry.
Use worn, damaged, undersized or un-grounded extension cords.	Contact with worn or damaged extension cords could cause electrocution. Undersized extension cords could overheat wires or connected appliances, resulting in fire. Use of ungrounded cord sets could prevent operation of circuit breakers and result in electrical shock.	Inspect extension cords before use and replace if necessary. Use proper size (wire gauge) cord set for application. Follow instructions supplied with your unit. Always use electrically grounded cord sets.
Attempt to fill the fuel tank while the engine is running	Gasoline and gasoline vapors can become ignited by coming in contact with hot components or surfaces such as the muffler, engine, exhaust gases or and electrical spark.	Turn engine off and allow it to cool before adding fuel. Make sure there's a fire extinguisher in the immediate area certified to handle gasoline or fuel fires.
Store fuel in makeshift containers.	Fuel could leak out causing a fire hazard. Fuel could be mistaken for another substance creating a fire hazard, eye hazard or possible poisoning.	Purchase storage tanks intended for a specific use, such as a gasoline can for gasoline storage, or a propane tank for propane storage.
Fail to ventilate generator by operating in an enclosed area	Obstructing ventilation causes overheating and possible ignition of the materials. You will produce toxic carbon monoxide exhaust fumes from the engine. Breathing exhaust fumes can cause serious injury or death.	Operate generator in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. Keep objects away from unit during operation. Do not operate unit in a confined area, such as garages, storage sheds, etc. which lack a steady exchange of air. Never operate unit in a location occupied by humans or animals. Keep children, pets, and other away from generator
Operate generator on dry grass, weeds, or near a building, fence or other flammable material.	Generators run hot, and are sources of ignition. Operation in such conditions could start a fire.	Operate the generator at a safe distance from combustible materials. See your generator instruction manual for further information.
Tamper with factory-set engine speed settings.	Tampering with the engine speed adjustment could result in overheating of attachments and could cause a fire.	Never attempt to "speed up" the engine to obtain higher performance. Both the output voltage and frequency will be thrown out of standard by this practice, endangering you, others and possibly damaging the generator.



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