

HOME GENERATOR TIPS

Generators carry the same electrical dangers as utility power and additional risks because safety devices are often bypassed. Major hazards include carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, and electrocution.

Essential Safety Tips

General Use

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Never connect a generator directly to a building's electrical system.**



HAZARDS

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning
- Fire
- Electrocution



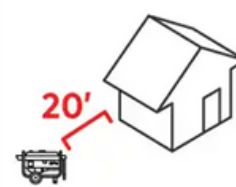
Carbon Monoxide Safety

- CO from generators has killed hundreds in the U.S.; it is odorless, colorless, and deadly within minutes.
- Operate generators outdoors only, with 3–4 feet of clearance on all sides.
- **Do Not** operate generators in homes, carports, or partially enclosed spaces.
- Keep them away from doors, windows, and vents; fans do not prevent CO buildup.
- Install battery-powered CO alarms indoors.
- Some generators include an automatic CO shutoff sensor.

How to Run a Generator Safely



Never run it in an enclosed space



Always run it at least 20 feet from your home



Always direct exhaust away from your home



Electrocution Prevention

- Operate on a dry surface under an open canopy if conditions are wet.
- Keep hands dry when touching the generator.
- Use GFCIs to reduce shock risk.
- Do not use equipment that has been submerged or is smoking.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords long enough to place the generator far from the home; ensure cords are undamaged and have all three prongs.
- Never back-feed by plugging a generator into a wall outlet—this endangers workers and bypasses circuit protection.



Fire Prevention

- Turn off the generator and let it cool before refueling.
- Store fuels (gasoline, propane, kerosene) outside living areas in proper containers, away from fuel-burning appliances.
- Prevent fuel vapors from reaching pilot lights or electrical sparks.
- Use cords rated for the proper wattage/amps and avoid overloading the generator.
- Never coil extension cords, as heat buildup can melt insulation.