



GenerLink makes portable generator use safer and easier

Connect a portable generator easily and safely with GenerLink™.

It's designed and rated to connect directly to standard household electric service of 200 amps or less. (If your home has a larger electric service, GenerLink will not work and can not be installed.)

Simple and safe. GenerLink is a device that South Central Power installs behind your electric meter. When you connect and start a portable generator, GenerLink automatically disconnects your house from the electric utility grid. To use GenerLink, your generator must have a four-prong connection with a 20- or 30-amp rating.

Consumer flexibility. GenerLink comes with an informational booklet that generally describes how much power common appliances use. During a power outage, select the combination of items you want to operate by switching breakers in the circuit panel. If you overload the generator, its breaker will trip and it will stop operating until the load is lessened.

Please note that it's not possible to power your entire home with a portable generator.

A typical home with 200-amp electric service generally requires up to 25,000 watts (25 kilowatts) of electric demand. GenerLink is designed to be used with portable generators with a maximum continuous power output of 7,200 watts and that are temporarily connected to a home.

Cost. South Central Power sells GenerLink for \$615. After installation, the co-op issues an invoice and payment is due in full. The unit comes with a standard 20-foot power cord, but longer cords are available at an additional cost.

GenerLink with HomeGuard Surge Protection also is available for \$690. It protects household equipment, including appliances and hard-wired systems not protected by power strips. It offers enhanced protection for household electronics, too.

South Central Power installs GenerLink only for its customers. The cooperative will sell a GenerLink unit to non-South Central Power customers, but those homeowners must arrange for installation with their electric utility.

To learn more, visit www.southcentralpower.com and click on Products and Services or contact the Energy Advisor at your local South Central Power office.



Meter Technician Jack Bitler installs a GenerLink unit for a customer.

Contact us
740-653-4422
1-800-282-5064

www.southcentralpower.com

Offices

Lancaster

2780 Coonpath Road NE
P.O. Box 250
Lancaster, OH 43130

Canal Winchester

10229 Busey Road
Canal Winchester, OH
43110

Circleville

2100 Chickasaw Drive
Circleville, OH 43113

Hillsboro

110 Danville Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133

Barnesville

37801 Barnesville-
Bethesda Rd.
Barnesville, OH 43713

Office hours

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Outage reporting

When reporting an outage, an automated outage reporting system may answer your call. It may ask for your 12-digit account number to help locate the outage site. This number is found on your monthly bill. It's handy to write it down and keep it near the phone.

Suggestions

Please send your Country Living story ideas or comments to the attention of Lisa R. Hooker at South Central Power's Lancaster office.

Benefits of an outdoor light

For more than 18,000 South Central Power members, the night is a little brighter. These members had an outdoor light installed by the cooperative, which also takes care of its ongoing maintenance.

The co-op offers a 100-watt globe style light, a 250-watt cobra head light and a 250-watt flood light. All of the styles use high-pressure sodium vapor bulbs and dusk-to-dawn photoelectric sensors.

Outdoor lighting offers these advantages:

Increased safety: Avoid twisted ankles and missed steps. See where you're going when moving cars or large machinery around buildings.

Increased productivity: Finish outdoor tasks after dark.

Consider outdoor lighting for areas around the garage, back door, barns or other out buildings. If properly planned, outdoor lighting also can enhance the aesthetic beauty of your home and yard.

To learn more about South Central Power's outdoor light options, requirements and pricing, go to www.southcentralpower.com.

To check pricing for installations that need more than one pole or additional equipment, call the energy advisor at your local South Central Power office.

Correct customer telephone numbers needed

Winter is looming. Ohioans know the state's snowy, icy and windy conditions often can lead to power outages.

When the severity of an outage overwhelms South Central Power's telephone system, an automated system handles the overflow outage calls. You'll know you've entered the automated system when a recorded male voice answers your call.

When using the automated outage reporting system, follow the verbal prompts to report an outage. Pressing any other keys will not report the outage or connect you to a live person.

You'll be asked if you're calling to report blinking lights or a power outage.

South Central Power's automated outage reporting system accepts either a telephone number or the account's outage reporting number. Most consumers find it more convenient to use a phone number. To do so, it's necessary for the co-op to have a telephone number on file.

If the automated system matches the phone number with one in the co-op's customer account database, it will ask if the site of the telephone number also is the outage location.

If it is, you'll be asked to confirm the address and if you are aware of downed wires, trees or poles. The outage is then automatically reported to South Central Power's dispatchers.

If the automated system cannot match the telephone number, you'll be asked to enter the 12-digit outage reporting number for the outage site. You'll then be asked for any additional outage information.

Have multiple electric accounts? Members with more than one location on South Central Power electric lines should provide a single phone number to be linked to all of the sites. The system will then prompt you to select the outage location. Please contact the co-op with the single telephone number you selected so it can be noted.

Medical conditions. If a medical condition is noted on a consumer's record, the automated system acknowledges it.

A medical condition, however, does not guarantee immediate power restoration.

Such consumers should develop a plan for how to move the affected person to safety in the event of an extended outage.

Submit your telephone number. Please call South Central Power with a telephone number that corresponds to your home or business location. E-mail us through the website or note the appropriate phone number on the monthly bill stub that accompanies your payment.

Periodically, the cooperative includes a special message on the monthly electric bills of members who do not have phone numbers on their account.

**To report an outage, call toll-free
1-877-OUTAGES (1-877-688-2437)**

Establishing a veterans memorial

Attending the Memorial Day observance at the Violet Cemetery is a tradition for David Williard's family.

"My Dad was a World War II Army veteran. We'd always go to the cemetery with him for the ceremony," Williard says.

Even though his father, Earl, died in 2009, the family continues to attend the activities.

"Cub Scout Pack 256 places flags on the veterans' graves each Memorial Day, but it wasn't until Dad passed away that I noticed there wasn't any veterans monument," Williard says.

It was then that the lifelong Pickerington resident decided to do something within the cemetery to honor the veterans.

"The Cemetery Association thought it was a good idea. I kept them updated as the project progressed," Williard says.

He turned to Logan Monument Co. for assistance.

"They were great to work with. Brigette O'Rourke helped me with the design and what should be on it. She had terrific ideas," he says.

Williard then contacted the David Johnston Memorial Post #283 of the American Legion about a fundraiser.

"Their commander is Jim Masengale. His desire to give a donation from the post got me started," he says.

In 2010, Williard spread the word about the project through speaking engagements to area community groups. He also met with a few private companies.

"The generosity was amazing. In the end, I had almost \$18,000, so we were able to do more than just a stone monument. We installed two 40-foot flagpoles, two granite benches, permanent lighting, a concrete paddock area and

walkway," Williard says.

"It turned out to be a memo-

"The generosity was amazing. In the end, I had almost \$18,000, so we were able to do more than just a stone monument."

rial park for reflection. It's more than I ever thought it would be when I started," Williard says.

The monument

The Violet Cemetery Veterans Memorial features an eagle inside a laurel wreath and the crests of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

The inscription reads: "Dedicated in honor and memory of all veterans who served our country."

"The impetus was my Dad's passing, but the memorial is for all veterans," Williard says.

Violet Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 300 veterans.

"There are Civil War vets, some from the War of 1812, and the Spanish-American War. There's one Confederate soldier and, of course, veterans from the more recent wars," Williard says.

"The memorial is a good thing for the cemetery. It's a nice addition that honors all of our veterans," says Richard Powers, Violet Cemetery Association board chairman.

"The association was open-minded about my idea. They gave me some input, and so did the American Legion Post," Williard says.

The community dedicated the Violet Cemetery Veterans Memorial on May 31, 2010 — Memorial Day. "We had a good crowd and everyone was very happy," Powers says.

Williard has received more than a few accolades from his fellow residents.

"I guess I was just driven to do this. I had a lot of help along the way. It started so simply, then ballooned. It's been the greatest experience of my life. I'll never forget it," Williard says.

Because of his effort, Williard won't be forgotten, either. Most important, though, neither will the veterans buried in Violet Cemetery.



David Williard and the Violet Cemetery Veterans Memorial in Fairfield County.

NEWS CURRENTS

Winter vacations

Whether you're headed to a warm, sunny climate or to the ski slopes, a winter vacation can be wonderful. But it can become a nightmare if you don't properly prepare your home.

Cold weather protection. Turn your thermostat down, but don't set it too low or turn off the heat. Protect pipes near outside walls from freezing by installing heat tape or insulation. Arrange for snow removal, if needed. Unplug any appliances that could be damaged when the power comes back on after possible outages.

Theft protection. Make it appear as if someone is living in the house. Use timers to control lights. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries. Ask neighbors to keep an eye out and leave your phone number with them.

It's a good idea to have someone stop in regularly to check the house, heating system, hot water tank and pipes. This can prevent or catch any leaks, bursts or other unpleasant surprises that may greet you upon your return.

Security system. South Central Power has a wide array of wireless security system components. Monitor for intrusion, fire and environmental concerns.

Call South Central Power's Security Division today for an in-home visit and a free estimate. Details also are available at www.southcentralpower.com.

Meter tampering is illegal

In Ohio, theft of electrical service is a first-degree misdemeanor if the value of the stolen electrical service is less than \$500. It is a fifth-degree felony if the value of stolen electrical service is more than \$500. The law provides that an offender does not have to be caught in the act to be convicted of theft.

Tampering with an electric meter (including bypassing a meter) or reconnecting an electric meter disconnected by a utility is prima facie evidence that the owner intended to defraud the utility.

Conviction for theft can result in penalties ranging from six months in jail and a fine of \$1,000 to 12 months' imprisonment and a \$2,500 fine in addition to the payment of restitution for the stolen electrical service.

Tampering with or reconnecting a disconnected meter is illegal and dangerous. Serious injury or death from electrocution has resulted from tampering with or reconnecting a disconnected electric meter.

If you suspect someone of theft of electrical service, contact South Central Power at 1-800-282-5064 immediately.

Theft of electricity is a serious crime and anyone caught violating the law will be prosecuted.

Still time to winterize

Before nighttime temperatures dip below freezing or cold winter precipitation begins, check these tasks off your to-do list.

Drain and remove all outdoor hoses. Turn off outside water lines, then open the outside spigots to drain any water still in the pipes.

To prevent water pipes from freezing and bursting, wrap those that are close to the ground or exposed to the cold.

Clean all rain gutters and flush downspouts with a garden hose. Consider one of the many spouting covers available to keep debris out.

Place screens over vents and chimneys to prevent unwelcome guests like mice and squirrels who are looking for a warm place to spend the winter.

Use weather stripping and/or caulk to block unwanted drafts around doors and windows.

If the manufacturer suggests it, place an insulation jacket around your hot water tank.

Replace your furnace filter. Consider buying a supply for the winter, so monthly changes are handy.

If you haven't done so already, have your heating system serviced by a qualified professional.

No matter what kind of system you have, a check-up ensures it's operating efficiently and safely. An appointment now may also save you from waiting for a service person once the first bitter cold days arrive.

Remember to include any portable heaters you may be using, too.

If you utilize a fireplace or wood-burning stove, remember to have the chimney cleaned and flue inspected.