




A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

Generators come in handy during long-term power outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous. Review the following tips to use generators safely and contact a qualified vendor or electrician to help you determine what generator is best-suited to your needs.

Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch. The transfer switch prevents energy from leaving your generator and going back into power lines where it could harm a lineman, a process known as "back-feed." A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.

If you have a portable generator, operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide. Do not plug a generator into the wall.

Start the generator first before connecting appliances. Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage, prioritize your needs.



Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.

Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

**Give us a call at
800-282-5064
or visit
www.southcentralpower.com**