



# Portable Generator Safety

## Protect you & your family. Take it outside.

When using a portable generator for emergency power, it is important to be aware of potential hazards. Always keep these basic guidelines in mind when running your generator outside of your home so that you operate it responsibly and safely.

### Carbon Monoxide & Ventilation

- Using a generator indoors **can kill you in minutes**. Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly poisonous gas you cannot see or smell.
- **Never** run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas such as garages.
- **Only** use outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and will not accumulate deadly exhaust gas.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated Carbon Monoxide alarms/detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions / recommendations



### Portable Generator Internet "Solutions" Busted:

**Myth: Place the generator on planks of wood if the ground is wet.**

Even if the wood does not become saturated with water, there is a risk of electrocution when the wires run across the ground.

**Myth: Use a kid's tent or make a box to keep the generator dry from rain.**

Plugs and the interface need to be dry to avoid electrocution. However, most tent and enclosure "solutions" do not factor in the airflow needs for a generator – airflow helps keep the generator cool so the engine can continue to run properly. Additionally, without enough airflow, there may be buildup of carbon monoxide.

**Myth: If it's windy or wet in the yard, just put the generator a little closer to the house on the patio or porch. Just keep nearby windows and doors shut over there.**

Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends you use your generator outside your house only, at least 20 feet from your home.

**Myth: Any extension cord will work**

Indoor extension cords are not made for outdoors – they do not repel moisture. Using an indoor cord outside could result in electrocution.

*source: <https://cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases/2020/CPSC-Warns-Consumers-in-Path-of-Storms-to-Take-Precautions-When-Using-Portable-Generators>*

Have questions? We're here to help.  
**Call 954-364-3201**

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## Generator Placement & Operation

- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.
- Allow at least five feet of clearance on all sides of the generator when operating.
- Generators can be used during a wide variety of weather temperatures, but should be protected from the elements when not in use to prevent shorting and rusting.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it will not be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly and contact the nearest authorized service provider for repair or part replacements
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs to the generator.

## Electrocution & Electrical Shock Hazards

- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- Always start or stop the generator only when no electrical loads are connected.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions such as rain or snow.

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