



## Safety Tips

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# Generators

**A generator can be your best friend during a hurricane or prolonged power outage. But misused generators can be deadly - causing fires, electrocution or carbon monoxide poisoning. Follow these tips to make sure your generator doesn't turn against you:**

- Run your generator outdoors in a level, dry, ventilated area away from your home's doors, windows, and vents - preferably under a canopy, carport or open shed. Never use it indoors, in a crawlspace, basement or attached garage.
- Connect your appliances to the generator using heavy duty, three-prong, outdoor extension cords. Never connect a portable generator to the house wiring - called "backfeeding." This practice could electrocute a neighbor or utility worker miles away.
- If you install a permanent generator, have a licensed electrician wire it to your home with a transfer switch.
- Carbon monoxide is highly toxic, but it has no odor. Even if you can't smell fumes, if you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while the generator is running, get to fresh air immediately. Install a battery-powered carbon monoxide alarm in the home.
- Don't store gasoline inside the home, in a crawlspace, or in a garage or basement if it contains a fuel-burning appliance. Gas vapors could be ignited by a pilot light or the arc of electric switches.
- Add up the power requirements, in "watts," of all the appliances and lights you want to connect to the generator. This total should be less than the generator's stated maximum power output. If it's more, the generator or an appliance might be damaged.
- Before refueling, turn off all the appliances, and then turn off the generator to let it cool down. Spilled gasoline could catch fire on hot engine parts. Have a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Don't touch the generator with wet hands.