



Generator Safety

USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY

Portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during power outages, **when used properly.**

Safe Use of Portable Generators

- Always keep generators at least **20 ft away** from your home.
- **Never operate** a generator in an enclosed space, including in an attached garage.
- Make sure the generator has **3-4 ft clearance** on all sides to ensure proper ventilation.
- **Keep away** from doors, windows and vents.
- Exhaust should always be **directed away** from your home.
- Always use **grounded cords** and inspect cords for damage prior to use.
- Always use **GFCI protection.**
- Use **proper cord** for wattage being used.
- Never refuel a generator **while it is on** or **while it is hot.**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) POISONING PREVENTION

- Improper use and installation of generators could cause CO poisoning
- Make sure your home has carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home

Common symptoms of CO poisoning:



Permanent Generator Requirements

A Washoe County building permit is required for **permanent, non-portable** generators.

Requirements for Washoe County permit*:

- Application
- Site plan
- Electrical drawing (single line diagram)
- Manufacturer's specs of generator
- Transfer switch specifications
- Installation by a qualified professional

Contact Washoe County Building for more info:

- Website: washoecounty.gov/building
- Email: building@washoecounty.gov
- Phone: 775-328-2020

* Within the Lake Tahoe Basin, a permit from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency may also be required. Visit trpa.gov to find out.

Additional safety information about generators is available at

www.nvenergy.com/safety/generator-safety