



RESIDENTIAL

Generator Information

Visit gtlakes.com or
call 888-GT-LAKES

Portable SYSTEMS



Portable generators may be the preferred choice for restoring only the basic necessities (heat, water, refrigeration, etc.) during an emergency. A portable generator is significantly less expensive to buy and install than a stationary system and is generally used for shorter periods of time. Some portable generators can use 20 gallons of gasoline per day if run continuously for 24 hours.

Stationary SYSTEMS

Stationary systems are large enough to power the entire home for extended periods of time. They can come on automatically when an outage occurs and shut off when power is restored. A large propane tank or natural gas line can be connected to fuel it.



The Most Important Feature – Safety

FAILURE TO CONNECT AND OPERATE A PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFELY CAN LEAD TO:

- Fire
- Damage to home appliances and electronic equipment
- Deadly carbon monoxide poisoning
- Shocks and electrocution

Installation Tips

Do not connect a portable generator yourself to your home wiring. A licensed electrician can do the job safely for you by installing a transfer switch.

THE TRANSFER SWITCH ELIMINATES TWO POTENTIAL HAZARDS:

- Power from the generator flows back into the power lines endangering the lives of lineworkers working to restore your power. Downed power lines can become energized endangering family members and neighbors nearby. Always assume a downed power line is energized and stay away from it.
- Serious electrical damage could result if power from the generator and Great Lakes Energy both flow into your home at the same time.

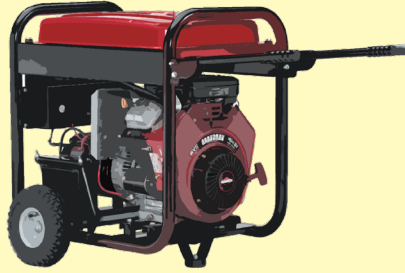
Meter bases equipped with a built-in transfer switch can be purchased from Great Lakes Energy. Contact us for more information.

DO'S AND DON'TS

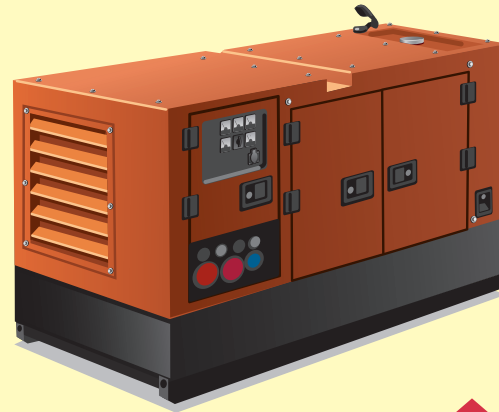
- **DO** properly ground the generator and keep it dry to avoid potentially fatal electric shocks.
- **DO** use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), especially where electrical equipment may be exposed to wet or damp conditions.
- **DO** use only extension cords that meet the generator manufacturer's specifications and are rated to handle the particular use.
- **DO** always operate the generator outdoors and protect it from rain and other moisture. Consider investing in a sturdy, nonflammable cover that will keep the unit dry while running. The generator should be at least 25 feet away from the house and away from doors, windows and vents. Please be aware that operating a generator in a garage with doors and windows open can still result in a deadly buildup of carbon monoxide gas.
- **DO** consider portable models with removable control panels that eliminate the need to run extension cords outside in wet weather to plug in appliances.
- **DO** carefully read all the literature that the manufacturer provides with the product for safe connection, operation and maintenance of your system. Routine maintenance is particularly important because the unit typically is not used most of the time. Regular checkups and testing may be necessary to ensure it will continue to operate without problem.
- **DON'T** overload a generator, which can lead to overheating and a fire hazard.
- **DON'T** refuel until the generator has cooled off. You could cause an explosion.

OTHER FEATURES

Some other features worth considering include inverter generators that use less fuel and are less likely to damage sensitive electronics found in appliances and home entertainment equipment. Wheeled models with electric start allow portable generators to be moved and started with less physical exertion.



Portable Generator



Stationary Generator

Portable or Stationary?

HOMEOWNERS WHO HAVE BACKUP POWER TYPICALLY HAVE EITHER A PORTABLE OR STATIONARY GENERATOR. COST, CONVENIENCE AND EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS ARE AMONG THE CHIEF FACTORS THAT DETERMINE WHICH SYSTEM IS BEST FOR YOU.

For more information:

More information on generator safety is available on the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) web site: Go to esfi.org and search for generators.

You can also visit our web site for information on generator safety.

NOTE: *The guide is intended to provide general information on two common backup systems used to provide electricity to homeowners during an emergency. Before investing in a generator, Great Lakes Energy members should consult a licensed electrician for assistance in determining the type of system and size required. A licensed electrician will install it correctly for your safety and ensure it meets all applicable codes and regulations.*

Great Lakes Energy does not sell or install generators.

SOURCES:

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)
Consumer Reports
Great Lakes Energy

1323 Boyne Avenue, P.O. Box 70
Boyne City, MI 49712

WEB: gtlakes.com

TEL: 888-GT-LAKES



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