



Safely Operating Generators For Standby Power

Putting Safety First with Electric Generators

The electric generators referred to in this flyer are typically engine-driven and may be permanently installed or portable. These may run on gasoline, fuel oil/kerosene, natural gas or propane.

If you have or are planning to buy a standby generator for use when there's an outage on National Grid's system, please observe these guidelines to protect yourself and your family:

- ▶ Have a licensed or qualified electrician install your generator. It's not something that untrained people can do safely. The wiring installation must be done accord-

ing to local codes, the National Electrical Code (NEC), and National Grid's Specifications for Electrical Installations.

- ▶ Make sure you get a generator that has enough capacity for your needs, including inrush for large motors. If it's too small, you could put too much strain on it, causing it to break down. Check manufacturer's instruction for sizing.
- ▶ Your wiring system must be disconnected from National Grid's system before you operate the generator.
- ▶ When using a portable generator, make sure the main circuit breaker

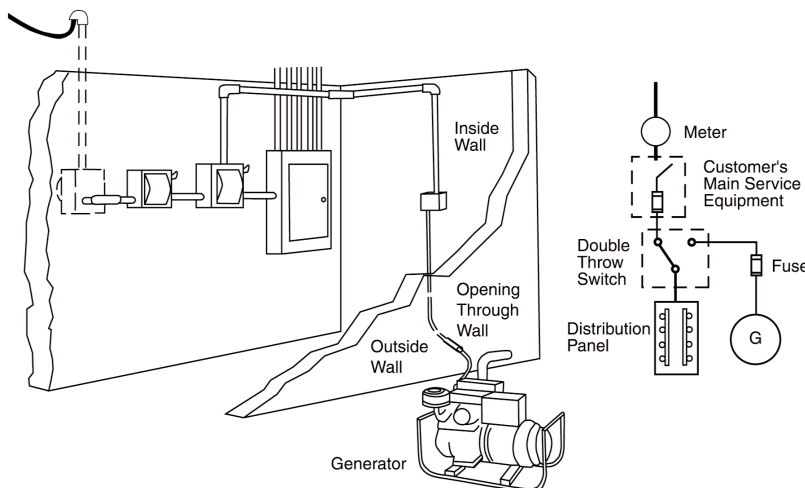
in your electric service panel box is in the "OFF" position. If you have a fuse box instead of breakers, pull out the main block, remove the fuses and reinsert the empty block. This is necessary to prevent your generator's electricity from going back into National Grid's system, which could endanger the lives of line crews and your neighbors. Also, it's required by the NEC.

- ▶ For permanent installations, a double throw switch will allow you to easily and safely disconnect from National Grid's system and connect your generator during an outage. Be sure your switch is the type that disconnects your system from National Grid's system before the generator takes over. It's just as easy to reverse the process when National Grid power is on again. This is called "break-before-make" transfer. Have a double throw switch installed! It must be rated for its intended use according to the NEC and listed by a recognized independent test laboratory.

- ▶ A generator in a garage or outside building should be properly ventilated, since its exhaust (carbon monoxide) can cause serious injury and even death. Never install an electric generator inside

Stand-by Generator: Non-Parallel Operation with Company

Proper installation keeps electricity from feeding back into National Grid's system



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Questa è un'informazione importante, Si prega di tradurla.

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Это очень важное сообщение. Пожалуйста, попросите чтобы

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a house. Operating a generator indoors, even with a door or window open, is NEVER safe!

- ▶ Generators make a lot of noise. Find a place for it where it will disturb your family and neighbors as little as possible.
- ▶ If possible, locate the standby generator close to where National Grid's electric service connects to your house or business. Consult your local city, town or village for any requirements or permits.
- ▶ Please notify National Grid's Customer Service Contact Center when you install your generator.

If you have any questions, please contact a licensed or qualified electrician or a National Grid customer service representative.

Symptom of carbon monoxide poisoning

Because carbon monoxide poisoning can feel like the flu, it can be hard to know when you are suffering from it. If undetected, however, carbon monoxide poisoning can lead to unconsciousness and even death. Those most at risk are elderly people, children, someone who is or has been ill, and anyone who spends most of the time indoors during the winter.

Depending on how long it goes unchecked, a person exposed to carbon monoxide can feel any number of the following symptoms:

- ▶ headaches
- ▶ dizziness
- ▶ weakness
- ▶ nausea
- ▶ confusion
- ▶ sleepiness
- ▶ redness of the skin
- ▶ tightness of the chest
- ▶ fluttering of the heart
- ▶ loss of muscle control

If you suspect carbon monoxide is present in your home, go outside immediately and breathe deeply, then call **911**. If symptoms are severe, seek medical attention immediately.

To protect against carbon monoxide poisoning here are some steps you can take:

- ▶ Install a UL-listed, or other recognized independent test laboratory listed, home carbon monoxide detector.
- ▶ Arrange for an annual check of your heating system by a licensed or qualified professional heating contractor. If you haven't had your heating system inspected yet, call now.
- ▶ Check chimneys or flues for debris, bird nests or other blockages, and have them cleaned periodically.
- ▶ If your furnace vents in a way other than through a chimney, make sure that the vent is clear of leaves and other debris.
- ▶ Be sure space heaters and wood stoves are in good condition, have adequate ventilation and are used in strict compliance with manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ NEVER use a gas range for heating, burn coal or charcoal in an enclosed space, or leave a car idling in a closed garage.
- ▶ If you use a back-up electricity generator, install it outside. Open windows do not provide sufficient ventilation to safely operate a generator indoors.

For other publicly available electrical safety information, please go to Electrical Safety Foundation International at www.esfi.org.

To request a free copy of National Grid's Specifications for Electrical Installations, or for more energy-related health and safety information, call your Customer Service Contact Center, or www.nationalgridus.com.



National Grid is an international energy delivery company. In the U.S., National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island, and manages the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. National Grid also owns over 4,000 megawatts of contracted electricity generation that provides power to over one million LIPA customers.

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