

WHAT YOU SHOULD
KNOW BEFORE
PURCHASING, INSTALLING
AND USING A

GENERATOR



Before Purchasing a Generator

- Inventory the appliances that you want the generator to power
- Determine the total wattage it will take to power these selected appliances
- Choose a generator that outputs more than your total wattage requirement
- Find a safe place outdoors to run the generator that will provide proper ventilation
- Consider how you will safely store the fuel for the generator

How to Power Appliances from a Generator

After purchasing a generator, you will need to determine how the electricity will be distributed to the electrical equipment in your home.

- Plug the appliances directly into the generator. The most straightforward approach to using a generator is to plug your appliances into a power cord that runs to the generator outside. This method makes it easier to control overloading the generator.
- Connect the generator into the building electric system. Connecting a generator into your home's wiring system is not a do-it-yourself project! We recommend a licensed electrician install the required transfer switch. The electrician will need to install the manual transfer switch between the housebreaker and the electric supply.

When the transfer switch is in the utility position, NPU will be supplying power to your home. By changing the switch to the generator position, the transfer switch will disconnect from the Utility and connect to the generator.

Generator Safety Tips

Post the step-by-step procedure to follow when starting your generator and have it easily accessible.

- Follow all manufacturer's instructions for operating your generator safely
- Ensure that there is proper ventilation for the generator. Place the generator in a location where exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings
- Connecting a generator into your electric panel without a transfer switch is dangerous to you and our utility workers
- Store fuel in approved and properly labeled containers and place out of reach of children. Do not store container inside living space.
- Consult a licensed electrician
- Install a transfer switch of the proper size
- Always disconnect from the utility before starting a generator
- Check and follow all national, state, and city fire and electric codes
- Do not remove any safety devices on the generator
- Never run a generator inside a building, include an attached garage
- Never fuel your generator while it is running
- Replace any power cord that is frayed or has exposed wires
- Store a fire extinguisher near the generator

WARNING: Trying to connect a generator into your house's wiring system without disconnecting from the utility's supply could be disastrous! You could permanently damage your generator and the electrical appliances in your house. The generator could also back feed electricity into the utility system. This could mean injury or death for the utility worker repairing service on a line he/she did not know was energized.

Utility companies have a detailed process for delivering electricity safely to your home. Improperly installing a generator can cause damage to equipment and life threatening injuries. Norwich Public Utilities is available to consult with you on the installation of your generator. Our consultations are free of charge. Contact us at 860-887-2555.



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