



# Portable Generator Safety Tips

Portable home electric generators can provide peace of mind in the event that there is a loss of power. The Connecticut Light and Power Company encourages customers to understand how to properly use these machines to minimize electrical and carbon monoxide hazards.

Please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- **A portable electric generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.**
- **Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation as well as state, local and national fire and electric codes.**
- **Make sure your generator is properly grounded according to the manufacturer's manual.**
- **Never use a generator indoors or in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces.**  
To avoid carbon monoxide hazards, generators should never be used in enclosed spaces. Units should be located far from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors, which could be deadly. Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms in your home, following manufacturer's instructions.
- **Use the proper power cords.**  
Only use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated power cords with an adequate wire gauge. Never use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- **Don't connect the generator directly to your home's wiring.**  
Have a qualified electrician connect the generator with a transfer switch so that it is not connected directly to your home wiring. If not installed properly, generators can feed electricity back into power lines that are connected to your home, and pose a deadly situation for electrical workers in the area.
- **Don't overload the generator.**  
Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the generator can handle, as overloading your generator can seriously damage your appliances and electronics.
- **Keep children and pets away from electric generators at all times.**
- **Always turn off the generator while you sleep or are away from home to avoid a possible fire hazard.**
- **Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting down your generator.**

*To learn more about electrical safety, visit CL&P's Web site at [www.cl-p.com](http://www.cl-p.com), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), Electrical Safety Foundation International at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) or The National Fire Protection Association at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).*