

Using domestic portable generators safely



A portable generator can be useful during a power interruption, but your life and the lives of others may depend on its safe operation. When a power interruption occurs a portable generator can allow some normal activities to continue, but they should always be **used with extreme caution**. Here is a practical guide to avoid the potential dangers of using a generator.

What to do when operating a generator

- ✓ **Read the instructions** thoroughly and understand the manufacturers instructions before using the generator.
- ✓ **Properly earth the generator** in accordance with manufacturers guidelines to stay safe.
- ✓ **Understand the wattage** and avoid overloading your generator by turning appliances on one by one and rotating the use of larger items.
- ✓ **Only use heavy duty rated extension cords** that are in good condition and protect connection points from the weather by using a waterproof safety box.
- ✓ **Only use in well ventilated areas** as petrol or diesel generators produce toxic fumes.
- ✓ **Store fuel in proper safety containers** away from ignition sources.

What not to do when operating a generator

- ✗ **Do not connect a generator directly to your home's wiring system** as this has the potential to lead to serious injury or even death.
- ✗ **Do not use a generator around water** including when you're standing in water or if the generator is submerged in water.
- ✗ **Do not use a generator before completing a safety check** first to ensure it is in good working order.
- ✗ **Never refuel a hot or running generator**, and ensure all appliances have been unplugged before refuelling.
- ✗ **Never leave your generator unattended while it's on**, and always ensure it is turned off overnight.
- ✗ **Avoid naked flames** or using ignition sources near your generator. Generators run on highly flammable fuel.



Make sure your generator is compliant

Only purchase generators that have **Electrical Equipment Safety System's "The Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM)"** on the packaging.



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