

Town of Clifton Park

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PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY INFORMATION

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Portable gasoline generators have become increasingly popular in recent years due to the harsh weather experienced in the great northeast. They are worth the expense to many people when the power goes out for extended periods, especially in freezing weather. They can also pose a severe danger if used improperly and can cause death if not used safely. Here are some things to keep in mind when using generators:

- The most important thing to remember is to NEVER operate any fuel burning appliance inside a building or on a porch. This includes generators as well as barbecue grills of any type. Carbon monoxide will build up to toxic levels quickly and overcome people exposed to the gas. These appliances need to be operated outside well away from structures preventing any possibility of exhaust entering the house. It is unsafe to operate inside a garage with the doors open, as carbon monoxide will make its way into the house.
- Remember to shut off the main circuit breaker at the electrical service panel to prevent electricity from energizing the power lines outside of the house and endangering utility workers working on the lines. It is recommended to have an electrician install a generator transfer switch to allow easy hookup in an emergency. Remember any electrical work performed needs to be inspected by a town approved electrical inspection agency, and proof is required to be submitted to the Town of Clifton Park.
- Most portable generators do not have the capacity to power up an entire house so you should only use the circuits necessary to keep the essential systems running. Never fuel a hot running generator and be sure to check the oil level at each refueling.
- Please be considerate of your neighbors when running your generator. The Town of Clifton Park has a noise ordinance as follows: No unreasonable noise between the hours of 10pm thru 7am. Operation of generators due to power outages during these hours will be allowed.
- Install smoke detectors in each bedroom and on each floor and the basement of your home. Install carbon monoxide detectors on each floor and in the basement, make sure battery operated detectors have fresh batteries once a year.