

ELECTRIC GENERATOR SAFETY

Follow these guidelines to make sure that your generator is working safely:

Some customers prepare for the possibility of power outages by buying an electric generator as a standby system to keep lights and appliances running until service is restored.

A generator may be able to help save food in your refrigerator or freezer during a prolonged outage, let you keep your home office running, or power other essential equipment. Generators can be expensive and noisy. They can also pose serious safety hazards to you and to others, so please follow all safety instructions provided by the manufacturer.

The City of Lompoc requires that customers with a permanently installed or portable generator do not connect it to another power source, such as the City's power lines. If you own and operate a generator, you are responsible for making sure that electricity from your unit cannot "backfeed," or flow into City's power lines. You are responsible for notifying the City that you have a generator. [It is the law!](#)*

For safety's sake, be sure to use your generator correctly. If you do not, you risk damaging your property and endangering your life and the lives of Lompoc Electric line workers who may be working on power lines some distance from your home.

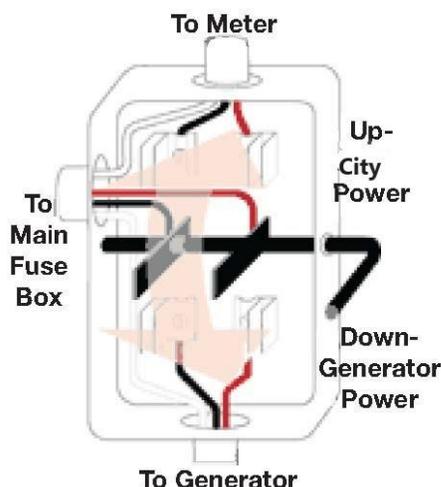


Permanent Standby Generators

When a generator is permanently connected to a customer's electric system, it energizes the building's wiring. This type of installation requires a device that prevents the generator from being connected to City power lines. Only a qualified professional, such as a licensed electric contractor, should install a permanent standby generator. If you plan to permanently connect your generator to your home wiring, you are required to obtain a permit from the City of Lompoc Building Division. Call 805-875-8220 for more information.

***It's the law!** All customers must report the location of a permanent or portable electric generator. California Law (Health and Safety Code, Part 15 – Miscellaneous Requirements, Chapter 5 – Electric Hazards, Section 119075119090) sets clear guidelines on the operation of electric generators.

For a copy of this law visit: www.cityoflompoc.com/electric



Follow these safety tips:

- A double-pole, double-throw transfer switch ([see above](#)) is the recommended device to keep your generator from backfeeding into the City's electric system. The switch also keeps the City's power from re-energizing your house wiring while your generator is running, protecting your generator, wiring and appliances from damage when your service is restored.
- Have all additions to your house wiring and installation of permanent generator inspected by the City of Lompoc's Building Division? For assistance call 805-875-8220.
- When installation is complete, we will receive notice from the Building Division. We will make a note in our records to remind our workers of your generator if they are working on an outage in your area. In some cases, City line workers may ask to check your electric generator transfer switch for safety.
- If you have a permanently installed standby generator but you do not know if it's installed properly, call the City of Lompoc Building Division, a licensed electrician or Lompoc Electric for help. If you have not already, please contact the Lompoc Electric at 805-875-8223 to let us know that you have a generator.

Portable Generators

Portable generators are designed to be connected only to selected appliances or lamps. These generators never should be connected directly to a building's wiring system.

- Before starting your generator, carefully read and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions.
- Be sure that the total electric load on your generator will not exceed the manufacturer's rating.
- Always locate your generator in a dry location where its exhaust will vent safely, preferably outdoors. Generators produce carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless poisonous gas that can result in serious injuries, and sometimes even death.
- Prioritize your needs. Use the lowest wattage light bulbs that provide a safe level of light, reserving power for additional lighting elsewhere or a small appliance. Remember that the greater the load on your generator, the more fuel it will use.
- Keep cords out of the way, so they don't present a tripping hazard—especially in dimly lit doorways or halls. Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.
- Extension cords must be properly sized to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires or damage to equipment.

You are responsible for any injuries or damage to your property, your neighbors' or City of Lompoc's, from an improperly installed or operated generator.

Unsafe installations may result in disconnection of City service until corrective measures are taken and inspected by the Building Division.



The City is committed to providing safe and reliable energy.
 If you plan to run your generator, please notify Lompoc Electric at 805-875-8223.
 For information about Lompoc Electric visit: www.cityoflompoc.com/electric