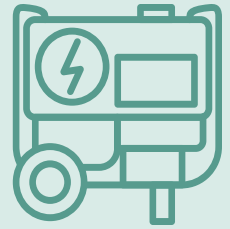


# DOs AND DON'Ts OF PORTABLE GENERATORS



## DO

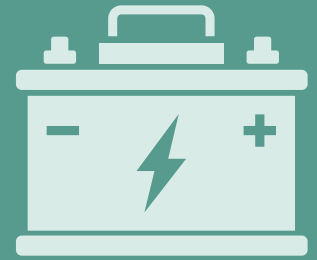
- Ensure the generator is properly installed and operated. When used improperly, generators can cause death.
- Conduct all recommended maintenance so that it is ready for the next use.
- Test your generator before hurricane season.
- Check the owner's manual for recommendations about oil amounts, oil changes, and storage with fuel.
- Operate your generator outside, in an open area with good ventilation, and away from your home.
- Ensure you have enough fuel for your generator before a storm makes landfall.
- Ensure extension cords are properly rated for the load, free of cuts or worn insulation, approved for outdoor use, and have three-pronged plugs.
- Keep the generator dry and on firm ground.
- Store the generator in a cool, dry place when not in use.
- Only run essential appliances when needed. Alternate the electrical supply to appliances, if necessary.
- Shut off the generator and allow it to cool before refueling.
- Keep a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher near the generator in case of a fire.

## DON'T

- Run a generator in an area without proper ventilation.
  - NEVER run a generator indoors, even if you open the window.
  - NEVER run a generator in a garage, even with the garage door open.
- Run a generator in an area outside that is near an open window.
  - Carbon monoxide, which cannot be detected by smell, can easily accumulate and cause death.
- Connect generators directly to household wiring yourself.
  - Power from generators can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including utility workers making power line repairs.
  - A qualified, licensed electrician can install your generator directly to your home's breaker box and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.
- Overload the generator.
- Store gasoline for the generator inside homes.
  - Only use garages for storage if there are no other fuel-burning appliances inside (such as a gas hot water heater).

# ALTERNATE POWER SOURCES

Other alternative sources for power can be useful for smaller items and charging cell phones.



## POWER STATIONS

Power stations may have a radio, flashlight, air compressor, battery jump starter, AC outlet, or DC outlet built around a modified car battery.

## PORTABLE CHARGERS

- Small, portable chargers are available and can be used to charge electronic devices like smartphones, tablets, or laptop computers.
- Charge portable chargers before a storm approaches in case you lose power.
- Solar chargers can recharge once depleted, even if power has not yet been restored.

## CAR BATTERY

- Your car battery can be an important source of DC and AC power with an inverter.
  - The inverter will drain your car battery. Look for inverters that have a low battery shutdown feature to prevent total battery drain.
  - You should not run an inverter with the car running. Check manufacturer instructions and safety guidelines.

## SUNNY DAY CONSIDERATION

- Consider a car battery charger as part of your emergency supplies, and keep it charged.
  - The charger only works when there is household power or backup power through a generator, but it can recharge your car battery if it is needed.
  - New units are small and portable and provide a quick charge to a dead battery in only a few minutes and a total charge in a few hours.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Scan the QR Code below



## RESOURCES

*Preparing for Natural Hazards Factsheet Number 1*

Visit our project website: [www.laseagrant.org/resources/be-prepared](http://www.laseagrant.org/resources/be-prepared)

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