What to Know About
Generators and Carbon Monoxide (CO)

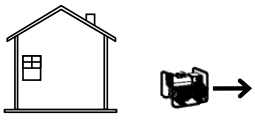
CO is called the "INVISIBLE KILLER" because it is colorless and odorless and can kill in minutes. During power outages, many consumers use portable generators for power. More than 80 consumers die each year from CO poisoning caused by portable generators.

⚠ DANGER

Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES.

Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide. This is a poison you cannot see or smell.

NEVER use inside a home or garage, EVEN IF doors and windows are open.



Only use OUTSIDE and far away from windows, doors, and vents.

CPSC Recommends Following These **Portable Generator and CO Safety Tips:**

DO'S

- **DO** check that portable generators have had proper maintenance, and read and follow the labels, instructions, and warnings on the generator and in the owner's manual.
- **DO** operate portable generators outside only, at least 20 feet away from the house, and direct the generator's exhaust away from the home and other buildings.
- **DO** ask retailers for a portable generator with a safety feature to shut off automatically when high CO concentrations are present. Some models with CO shut–off also have reduced emissions.
- **DO** install battery–operated CO alarms or CO alarms with battery backup outside sleeping areas, and on each floor of your home. Test alarms monthly.
- **DO** know the symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. If CO poisoning is suspected, get outside immediately, then call 911.
- **DO** be a good neighbor. Check on neighbors during extended power outages.

DON'TS

- **DON'T** operate a portable generator inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, shed or on a porch; and never leave a car running in an attached garage.
- **DON'T** use a portable generator near openings to your home including doors, windows or vents.
- **DON'T** ignore a CO alarm when it sounds. Get outside immediately, then call 911.

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