

# FACTS



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## HOME GENERATORS

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### Types of Generators

Generators are available in a range of sizes and configurations whether they are powered by gas or diesel, or they operate from a power take-off attachment. Generators are rated by the wattage that they produce.

### Safe Installation

- A licenced electrician should install the generator according to the manufacturer's specifications. Your local utility provider should approve the installation.
- Auxiliary power sources must be completely isolated from the hydro service attached to your meter to avoid "backfeed" to the outside power lines and through the transformer. Any utility employee working on the lines nearby could be seriously injured or killed if power is sent back into the distribution system.
- If the generator is connected to the existing electrical circuit and the power returns, an explosion or fire in the home could occur.
- To prevent backfeed or a fire from occurring, turn off your main breaker for the fuse box and only turn on the circuits that you will be using.
- Generators must be located outside with the exhaust blowing away from the house.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning can be a major concern.

### Safe Usage

- If you are using a generator to supply power to a small baseboard heater, make sure that the heater is in a safe location.
- A generator can handle a short-term heavy load but can not maintain this for a long period of time. Run the generator at 80% capacity or less.
- Make sure that the load is balanced in the fuse box.
- Do not let the generator overheat.

**Remember that mistakes can occur when you are tired or in a stressful situation. Never forget that you are dealing with a power source and use it with extreme care.**