HOW DO I USE A PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFELY DURING AN OUTAGE?

Run a generator outdoors only, at least 20 feet from windows, doors and attached garages. Ready.gov also says to install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup on every level of the home, and never to heat with a gas stove or oven.

THE STEPS

01 Set the generator outside, at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.

02 Never run it inside a garage, basement or any enclosed space.

03 Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup on every level of the home.

04 Do not heat a home with a gas stove or oven.

05 Keep camp stoves and charcoal grills outdoors as well.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ CO detectors with battery backup on every level
- ☐ A clear outdoor spot 20 feet from the house
- ☐ Fuel stored safely outdoors per the manual

Sources: Ready.gov, Power Outages. Last reviewed November 17, 2026. General planning information, not medical, legal or financial advice.