

NATURAL GAS & PROPANE

GENERATOR INSTALLATION

CONSULT YOUR UTILITIES

Whenever you are increasing your natural gas or propane load, you should always reach out to your fuel supplier and let them know you are considering adding additional equipment particularly in the case of a larger appliance, such as a generator, on-demand hot water heater or pool heater.

The Energy Cooperative can work with you to determine if your current measuring and regulation equipment is sized to handle the increased load. We can help you identify any upgrade costs for your equipment, as well as recommend some potential solutions. We can also work with you to point out piping requirements, particularly if you intend to bury a generator supply line.

Only approved materials are allowed in buried house line situations, such as PE2708 or PE4710 piping with tracer wire. In many instances, your selected installer is trained on the electrical side, but they may lack the knowledge on the natural gas or propane side to provide an approved installation.

You should always reach out to The Energy Cooperative's Electric Division when considering or installing a generator. Your contractor can call us for a temporary disconnect/reconnect to allow them to safely perform their electrical work on a deenergized system. We perform that service at no cost to you or your contractor. We may also be able to offer some advice on how to safely connect your generator, including grounding options, which are often overlooked.

FUEL SUPPLY LINE

If you are using natural gas or propane as your generator fuel source, consult with your generator installer. In some cases, there could be unexpected gas line replacement costs if your lines are not sized properly.

In most installations, it is advantageous to install the generator close to your electric service entrance. However, that may not be in a convenient location for your natural gas or propane fuel supply. Discuss this with your installer and ask them to check your house line sizes to ensure your generator will get enough fuel to run properly. Also, check your required delivery pressure.

The Energy Cooperative typically delivers natural gas into residential homes at pressure of 7" WC (water column), or about .25 PSI. We typically delivery propane into your home 11" WC, or about .4 PSI.

GENERATOR SIZING

Shop around and talk to different manufactures. Select a generator that will meet your current needs as well as any needs you might have in the future. Consider what devices or appliances you plan to run in a power outage, such as lights, refrigerators, freezers, sump pumps and furnaces.

Some equipment, such as your HVAC air conditioner, are large electric users. Installing a whole house generator to run your HVAC units is nice, but it also comes at a cost. If you can live without air conditioning during a power outage, you might be able to save a considerable amount of money, while still meeting your minimum requirements. Keep in mind, many outages are seasonal, occurring in the spring or fall, when air conditioning may not be a necessity.

GENERATOR TYPE

There are several different type generators on the market, such as stationary/standby or portable. Additionally, these run on various fuel types, such as gasoline, diesel, natural gas and propane. Some generators even run on multiple fuels, such as natural gas, propane and gasoline. Choose a generator that meets your needs based upon the various types.

Take into account fuel cost for each model. Portable generators offer flexibility and can be moved or used at different locations, such as a summer cabin or a relative's house, so do not discount the flexibility of a portable generator. Standby generators offer the convenience of automatically powering up in a power outage, where portable generators do not.

During a thunderstorm, the convenience of a generator starting up and providing power in a seamless transition can be a wonderful experience when compared to pulling a standby generator out of storage, setting it up outside in the rain, running cords to connect the generator, and connecting to a fuel source.

GENERATOR LOCATION

Consider where the generator will be installed (stationary/standby) or connected (portable). The generator should be in a well vented area, away from building openings. Consider a location that will minimize noise in your home as well as your neighbors (you do not want to install a generator under your bedroom window).

If you are using a transfer switch (a device that automatically disconnects you from the grid and connects you to generator power during an outage), you will need to select a generator location that takes into account the proposed transfer switch location. For example, if you have a finished basement, you may have to determine your transfer switch location before you can determine your generator location.

PERMITS

Do not forget to check local zoning codes to determine if permitting is required, including local HOA's. Some local municipalities and HOA's may have established procedures relating to generators that should be explored before proceeding.

OHIO811

If you are installing a generator, make sure your contractor follows state law and calls OHIO811 before any work is performed. Many homes have multiple utilities (cable, internet, natural gas/propane or water) entering the structure in the same area. This is generally the same area that becomes the preferred location for the installation of a generator.

Whether your contractor is preparing a pad for the generator installation or planning to bury natural gas, propane, or electric lines, someone will probably be putting a shovel or concrete stake in the ground, which is considered an excavation by state law. Knowing where your buried utility lines are before excavation will help you plan your generator location and help your contractor dig safely.

Calling OHIO811 before the excavation not only helps protect your excavator, but helps protect you and your utility providers. Even if you plan to use a portable generator, its always a good idea to know where your buried utilities are. Most portable generator manufacturers recommend a grounding rod be installed (connected to the generator frame) to prevent electrical shock. Knowing where lines are buried allows you to properly locate and install your grounding rod.

GENERATOR INSTALLATION

INSTALLATION

Most generator manufactures suggest having a licensed electrician perform the electrical connections, which is a good, recommended practice. You should discuss your installer's natural gas or propane certifications as well.

The Energy Cooperative follows the National Fuel Gas Code for all house piping installations, but we do have some requirements that go above those standards. Discuss who will be installing your supply lines with your contractor and have them reach out to our Natural Gas or Propane division so we can provide guidance for a safe installation.

For buried supply lines, we recommend using the same piping materials as a modern gas service line, a PE2708 or PE4710 line with approved tracer wire, buried to a depth of 18". The wire will allow you to locate the line in the future, should you ever need to excavate at or near the generator location.

For any questions, please reach out to our Member Service Department at 740-344-2102. A member service representative can work to answer your questions or route you to someone who can.



THE ENERGY COOPERATIVE IS AN ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE COOPERATIVE SERVING MEMBERS IN EAST CENTRAL OHIO.

www.myenergycoop.com