

Generator Safety

At Eversource, we are always working to keep you safe. A generator can be a great backup plan if the power goes out, but it must be used safely.

Taking the proper precautions can help protect you, your family, your neighbors and our crews working to restore power.

Installation

Generators, no matter the size, should always be installed by a licensed electrician and connected to your home's wiring through a special transfer switch. This ensures electricity produced by the generator does not back-feed into our electrical lines, endangering the lives of utility line technicians.



Proper Use

- Always run the generator outdoors and as far from the house as possible.
- Make sure the generator is kept away from doors, windows and air vents to avoid potentially fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Installing a carbon monoxide detector in your home can help you avoid a buildup of these toxic fumes.
- Turn off the main power switch in your home before operating the generator.
- Gasoline is highly flammable. Be sure that the generator is turned off before adding fuel.
- Keep children and pets away from the generator at all times.
- All equipment and appliances being powered by the generator should be turned off before the generator is shut down.
- Your generator should always be turned off while sleeping and when you are away from home.

Please visit the Safety section of [Eversource.com](https://www.eversource.com) for more information on carbon monoxide and generator safety.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Whether you heat your home with oil, natural gas, propane, coal or wood, your heating system can produce carbon monoxide (CO) if it is not working properly, or if it is inadequately vented.

Carbon monoxide is also produced from internal combustion devices such as cars and small gasoline engines.

Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless but very toxic. Signs that carbon monoxide may be present in your home include stuffy, stale or smelly air; very high humidity; or soot coming from a fireplace or heating system.

What should you do if you suspect the presence of carbon monoxide?

- Alert your family, employees or others in the area and exit immediately.
- Open the windows and doors on your way out, if you are able to do so.
- If carbon monoxide is detected by your alarm, exit the area immediately and call 911 to notify your local fire department.
- Have your heating equipment inspected by a licensed heating contractor to make sure that it is in good working order.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often confused with those of influenza, and the highest incidence of poisoning occurs during the flu season. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea, unclear thinking, shortness of breath, weakness, vision problems and loss of muscle control.

High concentrations of carbon monoxide can lead to unconsciousness, brain damage or death. However, a victim may not experience ANY of these symptoms, or only one or a few of the symptoms. You should suspect the presence of carbon monoxide if symptoms tend to disappear when you leave home.



How can you reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning?

- “Tune up” your heating system annually by using a licensed heating contractor, preferably before the heating season begins, so it is in good working order.
- Annually check your chimney or vent pipes for blockage. If a blockage exists, contact a professional chimney sweep immediately.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home, and make sure they are working properly.
- Make sure your home is adequately ventilated, particularly if you have insulated your home, had major renovations done or have enclosed your heating system.
- In the winter, clear snow and ice from appliance and equipment vents.

If you smell gas, call 877-944-5325 or 9-1-1. For more information, visit Eversource.com.