

What You Need to Know About



Backup Power



pge.com/backuppowers

To keep our communities and customers safe, PG&E may need to turn off power during severe weather conditions. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). Customers may choose to purchase backup power to keep electricity on during outages.

Is Backup Power Right For You?

- Are you dependent on electric medical devices? Life-support equipment may require backup power to keep energized during an outage.
- Does your community have ordinances restricting the level of emissions and noise of backup generators?
- Have you considered any immediate financial needs while examining backup power options?

Potential Solutions for Customers

- Portable power stations and battery technology
- Portable generators
- Permanent-standby generators

Choosing the Right Backup Power Solution

Consider the following when exploring the best backup power solution for you:

Energy needs: Backup power can produce enough electricity to power various items from small devices to homes. Consider critical items, like medical equipment, that you would need during an outage.

Fuel preferences: Common fuel types include gasoline, propane, natural gas, diesel and renewable energy. Your preference may be determined by environmental concerns, accessibility, affordability and storage space.

Environmental impact: Some generators may produce emissions and could introduce harmful pollutants into the air, which may be subject to air quality regulations. For more information, visit <http://arb.ca.gov/app/dislookup/dislookup.php>.



Safety Information

It is important to understand how to safely and correctly operate your backup power solutions. Always refer to instructions provided by the manufacturer and seek professional support if needed. Never connect any backup power system to another power source, including power lines. **Below outlines general safety information:**



Portable Power Station/Battery Technology Safety

- Ensure lithium batteries and other equipment are tested under appropriate standards, certified by a **Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory** and rated for their intended uses.
- Ensure replacement batteries and chargers are designed and approved for use with specific devices, and purchase from the device's manufacturer or an authorized reseller.
- Remove lithium-powered devices and batteries from chargers when they are fully charged.
- Store in fire-resistant containers and in cool, dry locations.
- Remove a device if it feels hot or shows any signs of damage.
- Follow local, state and federal regulations and contact a local battery recycling center for proper disposal.
- Follow manufacturer guidelines when extinguishing small battery fires.
- Do not run extension cords under rugs, carpets or doors where heat can be generated or cord may be damaged.

Portable Generator Safety

- Follow manufacturer instructions for refueling and safely store fuel in approved containers in well-ventilated locations.
- Do not place generator indoors or near flammable materials, and ensure generator is located where exhaust can vent.
- Be sure that the power needs of the device (electric load) are supported by your generator and do not exceed manufacturer specifications.
- Seek professional assistance if generator requires installation.
- Use appropriate extension cord sizes and consult a licensed, qualified professional.
- Do not run extension cords under rugs, carpets or doors where heat can be generated or cord may be damaged.

Permanent-Standby Generator Safety

- Installation requires a licensed, qualified professional to ensure local code requirements are followed. Visit **[pge.com/solar](https://www.pge.com/solar)** for help finding a professional contractor.
- Install generator outdoors, away from flammable materials, and ensure it has adequate ventilation.
- Consult with local jurisdiction and professional assistance for permitting.
- Ensure professional installs appropriate devices to avoid electricity from flowing or "backfeeding" into PG&E power line.
- All changes to house wiring should be inspected by your city or county building department.
- Once installed, call PG&E at **1-800-743-5000** to let us know about your generator. This awareness will help when we are working on an outage in your area.