



## Power outages can happen at any time

**Backup power can be a part of any preparedness plan.** Backup power can operate as a stand-alone power source, but some require interconnection to PG&E’s electric grid. Backup power is typically fueled by solar plus storage, batteries, natural gas, gasoline, propane or diesel fuel.

## Portable power stations

Portable power stations and battery technology can power anything from phones to refrigerators and everything in between. These solutions work indoors and out, without the noise, fumes, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollutants or maintenance of a traditional gasoline-powered generator. For more information, visit PG&E’s Marketplace at [marketplace.pge.com/portable-power-stations](https://marketplace.pge.com/portable-power-stations).

## Alternative backup power solutions

One environmentally friendly and reliable energy option for customers is to pair a solar energy system with a battery. PG&E provides financial incentives for business and residential customers installing new, qualifying equipment to provide backup power on the Self-Generation Incentive Program website at [pge.com/sgip](https://pge.com/sgip). Customers can also visit [pge.com/solar](https://pge.com/solar) to get help finding a contractor.

## Determining if backup power is right for you

Consider these important factors when deciding whether you need backup power:



**ENERGY NEEDS |** Do you own certain devices or equipment that need to keep functioning in the event of a loss of power? How crucial is it for you to have power during an extended outage? This is especially important for customers who are dependent on life-support equipment or have special heating or cooling needs for a medical condition.



**NOISE & EMISSIONS |** Are there community ordinances where you live or work that restrict or limit the decibel level allowance for outdoor equipment?



**COST |** Backup power can cost thousands of dollars. Take any immediate needs into consideration as you examine which option may be the best choice for you.

## Choosing the right backup power solution

If you decide to purchase backup power, explore what will work for you. Consider the following:



### YOUR ENERGY NEEDS

Backup power can produce enough electricity to power your phone and laptop or your whole home. Consider what critical items, appliances and equipment you would need during an outage.



### SAFE INSTALLATION & OPERATION

No matter what type of backup power you have, whether small-battery operated, portable or permanent standby, always consult the owner’s manual for detailed instructions and safety guidelines prior to operation.



### FUEL PREFERENCES

Your preference may be determined by environmental concerns, accessibility, affordability and available space for secure generator storage. Some fuel types are: gasoline, propane, natural gas, diesel and renewable energy.



### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Generators can be expensive, noisy and can pose safety hazards. Generators that rely on natural gas, gasoline, propane or diesel fuel produce greenhouse gas emissions and introduce harmful pollutants into the air.



Please be aware that operating a generator may be subject to air quality regulations. To find the air quality regulator serving your area and obtain more information please visit: [arb.ca.gov/app/dislookup/dislookup.php](https://arb.ca.gov/app/dislookup/dislookup.php).

## Using backup power systems correctly and safely

If you don't understand how to use your backup power system, you risk damaging your property, endangering your life and endangering the lives of PG&E crews who may be working on power lines in your community.



**FOR YOUR SAFETY:** Understand and follow all safety instructions provided by the manufacturer. Never connect any backup power system to another power source, including PG&E power lines.

### Portable generator safety

- Be sure that the power needs of the device (electric load) are supported by your generator and do not exceed the manufacturer's specifications.
- Place generators away from potentially flammable materials like dry grass as some generators can become hot while running and remain hot after they are stopped.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions regarding refueling, which may include shutting down the generator and allowing it to cool before refueling.
- Generator fuels should be safely stored and transported in approved containers and in well ventilated locations.
- Position your generator where its exhaust can vent safely to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, which can be fatal.
- Only use properly sized extension cords (per the American Wire Gauge (AWG) chart).
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat can be generated or damage may go unnoticed; keep cords from becoming a tripping hazard.



#### Do

- Purchase the right generator
- Plan and test generator before use
- Put safety first!



#### Don't

- Run a portable generator in the garage or the rain
- Ignore instructions
- Store fuel inside the house

### Permanent-standby generator safety

- Installation requires a licensed electric contractor or other qualified professional.
- Ensure electricity from your generator does not flow or "backfeed" into PG&E's power lines. The most common way to prevent backfeeding is to install a "double-pole, double-throw transfer switch" along with your permanent standby generator.
- Any additions or adjustments to your house wiring should be inspected by your city or county building department.
- Once installation is complete, call PG&E at **1-800-743-5000** to let us know about your generator. PG&E line workers will then be aware of your generator when working on an outage in your area.

## Financing options

If you are interested in purchasing a backup power solution, see below for a list of resources. Please note that PG&E does not make any endorsements or recommendations.

- **Assistive technology:** Apply for a low-interest loan for a portable battery. Visit FreedomTech Loan Program: [freedomtech.org](http://freedomtech.org)
- **Residential customers:** Buy now, pay over time. Visit Constant Energy Capital: [constantenergy.com/psps-business](http://constantenergy.com/psps-business)
- **Small and medium businesses:** Apply for loans up to \$250,000. Visit Ascentium Capital: [ascentiumcapital.com/get-financing](http://ascentiumcapital.com/get-financing)
- **Large businesses:** Apply for funding up to \$5 million. Visit Constant Energy Capital: [constantenergy.com/psps-business](http://constantenergy.com/psps-business)



Visit [pge.com/backuppowers](http://pge.com/backuppowers) for more information.