

Generator Questions

1. What are the permit requirements for whole house generators?

Mechanical – with a gas calculation

Electrical – One line drawing and load calculation needed.

Zoning- All Commercial locations and Residential over 22kw or located in a community covered by a homeowners association

2. What are load calculations?

A complete summary of all the connected loads on your homes electrical system. This is needed to prevent the overload of the generator.

Smart generators have the capability of shedding loads to prevent overload and the calculations are needed to decide which loads need to be shed.

3. Who can install the generator?

NJ Licensed Electrical and Plumbing/HVAC contractors

Homeowners residing in their own single family home

4. Where can the generator be located?

The locations will vary a little depending on the manufacture of the generator, generally 5' from any window or opening and minimum of 18" from the side of the house(depends on size and make)

Care must be taken to keep shrubbery and obstructions clear of the unit to prevent the buildup of Carbon Monoxide.

5. What inspections are needed

Mechanical –Gas test and Final inspection

Electrical – usually only a Final inspection unless part of the work is concealed or buried.

6. What is required to connect a portable generator?

If it is just connected to appliances with extension cords then no permits are required

If it is connected to the home's electrical system, then it must contain either a transfer switch or a system interlock and an inlet receptacle.

This would require an electrical permit and installation by a NJ Licensed Electrical contractor or a Homeowner residing in their own single family home.

7. What is an interlock?

A device that is installed on the main electrical panel to prevent the generator from back feeding the Utility electrical grid.