



Generator Information for Businesses

Follow these guidelines on how to use generators and help maintain operations during power outages. For more information, visit nyc.gov and search for **generators** or call **311**.

Generator Types

- Portable generators are designed to be carried or moved from one location to another and not be kept at one location or facility for more than 12 consecutive months. Small portable generators generally have built-in fuel tanks and power outlets. Small portable gasoline generators generally produce power up to 18 kilowatts (kW), and small portable diesel generators produce up to 13 kW.
- Towable generators are usually used to power larger facilities and can be towed on highways, are capable of multiple voltages or phases, and have onboard fuel capacity. They generally produce up to 1,000 kW.
- Stationary generators are permanently connected to the electrical system of a building.

Guidance for Businesses

Businesses should hire a licensed electrician to evaluate power needs:

- Determine what equipment is needed to maintain operations (for example, computers, lighting, refrigerators). The electrician will then determine the wattage and type of generator needed. If you need to power sensitive equipment, such as computers, your generator should contain an automatic voltage regulator.
- Discuss whether a portable generator is necessary or desirable, or if a stationary generator is preferable. A portable generator might require specific connections.
- Rent or purchase a small generator before an incident. Consider vendors outside New York City (NYC) and negotiate priority access to a generator to increase your chances of obtaining an emergency portable generator during a widespread power outage. These companies have generator permits with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):
 - Aggreko, Linden, NJ
 - United Rentals, Elmwood Park, NJ
 - Sunbelt Rentals, Brooklyn, NY
 - Carrier Rental Systems, Totowa, NJ
 - H.O. Penn Machinery, Poughkeepsie, NY
 - On Site Energy, Hicksville, NY

Businesses will rarely have to file all the permits and applications described below by themselves. The filings are generally handled by generator companies or licensed electricians.

NYC DEP Rules for Generators

The DEP defines an emergency generator as an internal combustion engine that operates as a power source that is used only when the usual source of power is unavailable and for no more than 500 hours per year. Any emergency or portable generator that is equal to or greater than 40 kW (about 50 horsepower [hp]) must be registered with the DEP online through their [Clean](#)

[Air Tracking System](#) (CATS). Visit [nyc.gov](#) and search for [industrial registration](#) for instructions on how to file for a generator registration with DEP. Any stationary generator (nonemergency) that is equal to or greater than 40 kW (about 50 hp) and less than 450 kW (about 600 hp) must be registered with the DEP. Any stationary generator that is equal to or greater than 450 kW (about 600 hp) is required to file with the DEP for an industrial work permit and certificate to operate — visit [nyc.gov](#) and search for [industrial work permit application](#). Also, visit [nyc.gov](#) and search for [generators, engines and turbines](#) for more information on DEP filing requirements for generators.

NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) Rules for Generators

Any alteration to a building's electrical distribution system must comply with the [NYC Electrical Code](#) — visit [nyc.gov/buildings](#) and search for [electrical code](#) for more information, and see NYC Administrative Code Title 27, Construction and Maintenance; Chapter 3, Electrical Code; Subchapter 1, General Provisions and Definitions; [Section 27-3018](#), Inspection; application for permit and application fees. The installation of any special connections (either terminations or quick connections) to prepare for the connection of portable generators to a building's electrical distribution requires a permit. The installation of a stationary generator does not require a permit.

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Rules for Generators

You must carry commercial general liability (CGL) and workers' compensation insurances if there is a need to use a street generator for the following type of work:

- Work to be performed for sewer and water system construction
- Work to be performed in Manhattan
- Work required on primary and secondary arteries
- Permits to close streets
- Any other activity deemed necessary by the Commissioner of the DOT

For more information, visit [nyc.gov/dot](#) and search for [general conditions for all permits](#).

The Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) Rules for Generators

Your business will need to obtain a [Flammable and Combustible Liquids permit](#) from the FDNY if you plan to store, handle or use 10 gallons or more of fuel oil on mobile power generating trailers or more than 2.5 gallons of gasoline for small portable generators — visit [nyc.gov/fdny](#) and search for [flammable and combustible liquids](#). In addition, the FDNY requires you to obtain a [Certificate of Fitness for Supervising, Storage, Handling and Use of Flammable or Combustible Liquids \(C-92\)](#).

Trailer-mounted generators must have a permit issued by the FDNY Hazardous Cargo Vehicle Inspection Unit for transportation, storage and use of a combustible liquid — visit [nyc.gov/fdny](#) and search for [transportation of hazardous materials permit](#). They must also be under the personal supervision of a Certificate of Fitness holder or a person holding a high-pressure operating engineer license issued by the NYC DOB.