

Power Outages and Indoor Air Quality

Power outages that last longer than a few hours, often caused by extreme weather events like storms or flooding, can have negative impacts on indoor air quality. If the ventilation system in the home or building doesn't work without power, levels of pollutants in the indoor air could increase. Fortunately, in many cases, you can follow steps to help moderate temperatures and maintain indoor air quality without the use of electricity.

Power Outages and Indoor Air Quality Webpage

This EPA webpage provides information about how to protect indoor air quality during a power outage including:

- Installing carbon monoxide alarms to prevent poisoning
- Safely providing power for lighting, cooking and heating
- Tips for ventilation and shading to help control indoor temperatures.

The webpage is available in ten languages.



Carbon Monoxide's Impact on Indoor Air Quality Webpage

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, carbon monoxide can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. This webpage provides information on how to protect yourself from exposure to carbon monoxide.



Portable Generator Infographic

This infographic provides tips for how to safely use a fuel-powered portable generator for emergency power. Carbon monoxide and other harmful gases from generator exhaust can be extremely dangerous if the generator is not used correctly.



Where to Safely Use a Fuel-Powered Portable Generator



20 FT FROM ALL HOMES

DO

20 ft

DON'T

ON BALCONIES, DECKS OR PORCHES

DON'T

NEAR HOMES OR WINDOWS

DON'T

IN BASEMENTS

DON'T

IN LIVING SPACES

DON'T

IN GARAGES

For more information about protecting indoor air quality during emergencies and disasters, visit **EPA's Emergencies and Indoor Air Quality webpage** by scanning the QR code to the right.

