



Generator air supply and exhaust distance

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Why do generators need a clearance requirement?

Clearance requirements help ensure the generator is operated at a safe distance where heat and fumes will not cause fires or health hazards. The exhaust gets extremely hot and remains hot after shutdown. Flammable material may ignite and burn from the heat of the exhaust system.

Where should a generator exhaust unit be installed?

Unit may need to be installed farther from the structure than the NFPA requirements. Generator exhaust can enter a structure through large openings, such as windows and doors. However, exhaust and CO can also seep into the structure through smaller, less obvious openings.

How much clearance should a generator have?

18 in. of clearance from the back of the generator to a stationary wall or building (based on testing done by the Southwest Research Institute or SwRI). 5 ft. of clearance above the generator. 3 ft. of clearance at the front and both ends. This includes trees, shrubs, and bushes.

How far should a generator be from a gas meter?

Keep the generator clear of gas regulators and metering. Many local guides call for about 5 feet from a gas regulator vent and 10 feet from the fill or vent of a propane tank. Maintain the required distance from the gas meter as specified by local codes to ensure safe operation and compliance. Your local inspector will confirm exact numbers.

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In this white paper, CFD has been utilized to look at the influences of walls near generator enclosures as well as the influence of prevailing winds.

The minimum safe distance between a generator and AC unit is typically 5-10 feet. This measurement might vary according to the generator's size and fuel type, and the brand or model of ...

Shopping for a generator? Read about types, features, safety, and other must-know topics in our generator buying guide to make an informed choice.

Most self contained units likely have minimum clearances in their instructions that are more for necessary air circulation reasons than any impact on the building. Distance from exhaust ...

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To prevent exhaust fumes, especially carbon monoxide, from entering living and working spaces, a minimum 3-foot clearance from windows, doors, and any ventilation openings is specified.

Generator clearance requirements incorporate several factors such as distance to buildings, ventilation requirements, gas lines and electrical safety.

Generator clearance made simple. Learn safe distances from walls, windows, vents, and property lines for standby and portable generators.

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