

**Town of Coventry Building Department**  
1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238  
860-742-4064

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT GENERATOR INSTALLATION GUIDE**

### **Planning Clearances:**

- You will be required to meet the minimum distances to combustibles (house, fence, shed, etc.) as per the manufacturer's directions for the specific model of generator you are installing. In lieu of such directions, a minimum clearance of 5'0" will be enforced. (NFPA 37 4.1.4)
- The generator must be a minimum of 5'0" from openings in the wall of a dwelling (window, dryer vent, exhaust fan vent, etc.). (NFPA37 4.1.4)
- You will be required to meet the minimum clearance to obstructions on both the air intake and exhaust side of the generator as per the manufacturer's instructions specific to your model. (IRC 2406.1)
- The generator must be a minimum of 10'0" from the fill/vent of any propane tank. (NFPA 58 3-2.2.2)
- The generator must be 5'0" from the vent opening of any gas regulator. If the regulator is placed closer than 5'0" from the generator the vent may be piped to provide the clearance to the vent opening. The vent opening must be downturned at the end and screened. (NFPA 58 6.8.1.7)

### **Installation Requirements:**

- The generator must be installed on a concrete or approved base that is a minimum of 3" above the surrounding grade. (IRC 1305.1.4.1)
- Gas piping and gas regulator must be adequately supported and protected from physical damage. (IRC 2415.9)
- Underground gas piping shall be a minimum of 12" deep. (IRC 2415.12)
- Plastic underground gas pipe shall be installed with an adjacent tracer wire which terminates above grade at each end. (IRC 2415.17.3)
- The required appliance flex connector must be installed as per manufacturer's instructions (these will indicate the connector must be straight or nearly straight). (IRC 2406.1)
- A sign shall be placed at the service entrance equipment indicating the type and location of the optional standby power source. (NEC 702.7)
- Black iron gas pipe is required to be painted if used outdoors. (IRC 2414.8)

## Permit Application

All new generator installs require both:

An Electric Permit <https://coventryct.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1083/record-types/6431>

and a Gas Permit <https://coventryct.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1083/record-types/6434>

Generator replacements only require an Electrical Permit.

- Unless you are a homeowner personally doing your own work on your owner-occupied one- or two-family house you must have a licensed electrician and a licensed propane gas plumber do the work of hooking up the generator. (State Statute 20-340)
- The permit value must account for all labor and materials to complete the installation including the cost of the generator itself. (IRC 108.3)

### Required Permit Attachments

1. Contractor License (for both)
2. Worker's Compensation Insurance or 7A Waiver (if applicable) (for both)
3. Type, make and model of the transfer switch to be installed along with cut/spec sheet.
4. Type, make and model of the generator to be installed along with cut/spec sheet and clearance requirements for generator.
5. If an automatic transfer switch is proposed to be installed, a load calculation is required in order to show compliance with the capacity and rating requirement of Section 702.4(B)(2) of the 2017 NEC®.
6. Location of the propane tank on the property (if in ground tank, additional permitting will be required with the EHHD if property is served by well &/or septic)

## **Required Inspections**

- Pressure test inspection on new gas line to generator required. Underground gas piping and underground electrical conduit require inspection prior to backfilling. (IRC Section 109)
- Final inspection required. Please have manufacturer's written installation instructions available and have the electrician scheduled to be present for the final inspection. The Building Official does not open electrical panels and will not be able to approve the installation without the electrician present. All grounds are neutrals in the existing house wiring must be separated to the first means of disconnect. (NEC 250.6)
- All items listed above will be checked for compliance at time of final inspection.
- Generator must be run and transfer load at time of inspection or letter to such must be provided.
- In lieu of a start-up inspection, a signed letter stating the generator and transfer switch has been tested for function and found to operate properly shall be provided before a final approval is granted. The letter should be on company letterhead and contain the following:
  1. The name, address, and license number of the contractor performing the test
  2. The property address where the equipment was installed
  3. The date the equipment was tested for proper function

