



Town of Yountville

"The Heart of the Napa Valley"

Generators in Yountville

Are you considering use of a generator to power your home or business for emergency power? Read here for more information.

Generators provide a backup source of electricity when there is a disruption to the main power grid – blackouts, brownouts, equipment failure, and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Generators typically do not restore full power to a business or residence but provide emergency power for a limited number of systems like refrigeration, heating, or medical equipment.



The most common generator types are **portable** and **standby**. **Portable** generators are the smallest and most common. They rely on a combustion engine that uses gas or diesel fuel. Individual appliances can be plugged into a portable generator on a temporary, short-term basis. **Standby** generators are permanent installations that can be switched on when primary power is disrupted.

Generators are allowed in Yountville, but careful consideration must be given to the installation location, noise generated, and whether a permit is required.

All generators must follow these rules:

- 1) Generators may not be located in the front, side, or rear setback of a home.
- 2) Generators must adhere to the Town's noise ordinance and not exceed allowed noise levels (YMC 8.04.020).

For **standby generators, these additional rules apply:**

- 1) Planning Department clearance is required for the generator location and an approved building permit is required for its installation.
- 2) Generators should be sited to minimize noise impact to your neighbors. Placement adjacent to your neighbor's garage or other non-habitable space is preferred. Placement near your neighbor's bedroom windows, main living area, or backyard should be avoided. In most cases, it is beneficial to consult with your neighbor on placement of the generator.
- 3) The generator should be screened from view.

For more information on the Town's rules or how to apply for a permit, please contact the Planning & Building Department at (707) 944-8851.