



City of Rohnert Park
Development Services
130 Avram Ave
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
(707) 588-2231
www.rpcity.org

Residential Generator Guidelines

In order to preserve the quality of our residential neighborhoods, the City discourages the installation of generators. However, we understand that generator use may be necessary in some extreme situations. If you believe that you need to install or use a generator at your home, please select the reason and type of installation below to determine how to proceed. For additional questions, please contact the City's Planning Division at planning@rpcity.org, or 707-588-2231.

- **Temporary Generators attached Directly to Appliances.** Generators used during emergencies (including a planned PG&E power shut-off) are unregulated.
 - No permit is required
 - Generators must be installed per the manufacturer's instructions and must be located **outside**
 - Generators must be installed so that exhaust is not directed into any habitable area
 - **Generators must be removed and stored at the end of the power shut-off or emergency event**
 - The Building Division is offering courtesy inspections to verify the safety of the temporary installation. To schedule an appointment for this, please contact Building at building@rpcity.org

- **Permanent Generators and Temporary Generators attached to the Home's Electrical System.** The City discourages permanent generators and temporary generators being attached to the home's electrical system in residential neighborhoods. However they can be allowed if the equipment meets the [City's Noise Ordinance](#), and after a permit is obtained and the installation has been inspected by the Building Division.
 - Note that **the majority of generators are too loud when operating to comply with the maximum noise thresholds.** Baffling equipment may help attenuate the noise sufficient for compliance; inquire with your vendor for assistance
 - Applicants must provide evidence that noise thresholds can be met as part of the application process
 - Setback requirements must also be met
 - **To apply**, please submit the following to Building at building@rpcity.org:
 - A dimensioned site plan illustrating the location of the generator with respect to your home and property lines
 - Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing schematics including load and gas calculations

- Construction details
 - Generator specifications
 - Fees will be based on the generator installation category
- **Generators for Medical Needs.** If a generator is needed to address a disability or health concern (e.g. back-up power for medical equipment), a permanent generator may be approved per the City's Reasonable Accommodation regulations. **Both a Planning and Building permit are required.** The planning application must be submitted and approved prior to submitting a building application.

1) Planning permits:

- An Administrative Use Permit is required for all Reasonable Accommodations. To apply, please submit the following to planning@rpcity.org:
 - [Zoning & Land Use Application](#)
 - **A note from a physician must be provided** to document why back-up power is needed and specifically what features in your home must be continuously powered in order to serve your medical needs
 - Generator specifications that illustrate the generator is sized to meet only those home features necessary to meet your medical needs
 - A dimensioned site plan illustrating the location of the generator with respect to your home and property lines
 - Payment of \$787 via check or credit card
- While generators can be approved that exceed the Noise Ordinance for these accommodations, the City encourages baffling, and placement of the generator to minimize impact on adjacent properties. As a courtesy, the City requests that you notify your surrounding neighbors prior to installation

2) Building permits:

- To apply, please submit the following to building@rpcity.org:
 - A dimensioned site plan illustrating the location of the generator with respect to your home and property lines
 - Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing schematics including load and gas calculations
 - Construction details
 - Generator specifications
 - Fees will be based on the power apparatus category