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Best Practices for Using Portable Generators in Construction Zones

CLEVELAND, OHIO (September 2014) – Portable generators are a useful resource on the job site when temporary or remote electric power is needed. There are many factors to be considered when selecting the right portable generator for a construction job, from the work site to the at-home DIY project.

“Portable generators are a reliable source of backup power and can be a necessary tool for any construction job,” said Joe Harding, representative for the Portable Generator Manufacturers’ Association (PGMA). “There are specific generators designed with the construction worker in mind, so knowing what type of generator to use as well as best practices will help get a job done efficiently and effectively.”

Contractors and construction workers know that portable generators are designed with professional features and the durability needed to endure the rigors of the job site, while homeowners appreciate the flexibility of having power when and where it’s needed. Here are the necessary steps to ensure you have the right generator for your project:

- **Select a generator that fits your needs.** Get the right size generator for your portable power application requirements.
- **Calculate the necessary wattage.** With use in a variety of situations, you should calculate the wattage needed to help determine the right size generator. For example, a hand drill typically requires 600 watts while circular saws and work lights may require twice that amount.
- **Run the required maintenance.** Regularly check your generator to ensure that it starts and operates properly.
- **Be prepared.** Have fuel on-hand for any necessary refueling.

Other factors to consider include noise level, fuel efficiency, run time and power output quality. And while portable generators power tools at the job site, workers should also adhere to safety precautions. Only operate a portable generator outside, far away from windows, doors and vents, to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide gas accumulating. Always place your portable generator downwind and point the engine exhaust away from occupied spaces. And remember, smoke alarms cannot detect carbon monoxide gas, so install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms.

To learn more, visit pgmaonline.com.

About Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association

The Portable Generator Manufacturers Association (PGMA) is a trade association that seeks to develop and influence safety and performance standards for the portable generator industry and its products. Formed in 2009, PGMA members include the major manufacturers of portable generators sold in North America including [American Honda Motor Co.](#), [Briggs & Stratton Home Power Products](#), [Champion Power Equipment](#), [Generac Power Systems](#), [Pramac America](#), [Subaru Industrial Power](#), [Techtronic Industries North America](#), [Wacker Neuson Production Americas LLC](#) and [Yamaha Motor Corp USA](#).

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