

INSTRUCTION SHEET

Site Selection and Preparation

Site Selection

Site selection is critical for safe generator operation. It is important to discuss these factors with the installer when selecting a site for generator installation:

- Carbon monoxide
- Fire prevention
- Fresh air for ventilation and cooling
- Water ingress prevention
- Proximity to utilities
- Suitable mounting surface

The following pages describe each of these factors in detail.

NOTE: The term “structure” is used throughout this section to describe the home or building where generator is being installed. Illustrations depict a typical residential home. However, instructions and recommendations presented in this section apply to all structures regardless of type.

Carbon Monoxide



⚠ DANGER

Asphyxiation. Running engines produce carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Carbon monoxide, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.

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IMPORTANT NOTE: Move to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention if you feel sick, dizzy, or weak while the generator is running or after it stops.

Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO)—a poisonous, potentially lethal gas that cannot be seen or smelled. The generator must be installed in a well ventilated area away from windows, doors, and openings. The selected location should not allow exhaust gases to be drawn into structures where people or animals may be present.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

See [Figure 1](#). CO detectors (K) must be installed and used to monitor for CO and to warn individuals about the presence of CO. CO detectors must be installed and tested in accordance with the CO detector manufacturer’s instructions and warnings. Contact local building inspection department for any applicable requirements

concerning CO detectors. See NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, and Section R315 in the ICC International Residential Code for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Common smoke alarms do NOT detect CO gas. Do not rely on smoke alarms to protect residents or animals from CO. The only way to detect CO is to have functioning CO alarms.

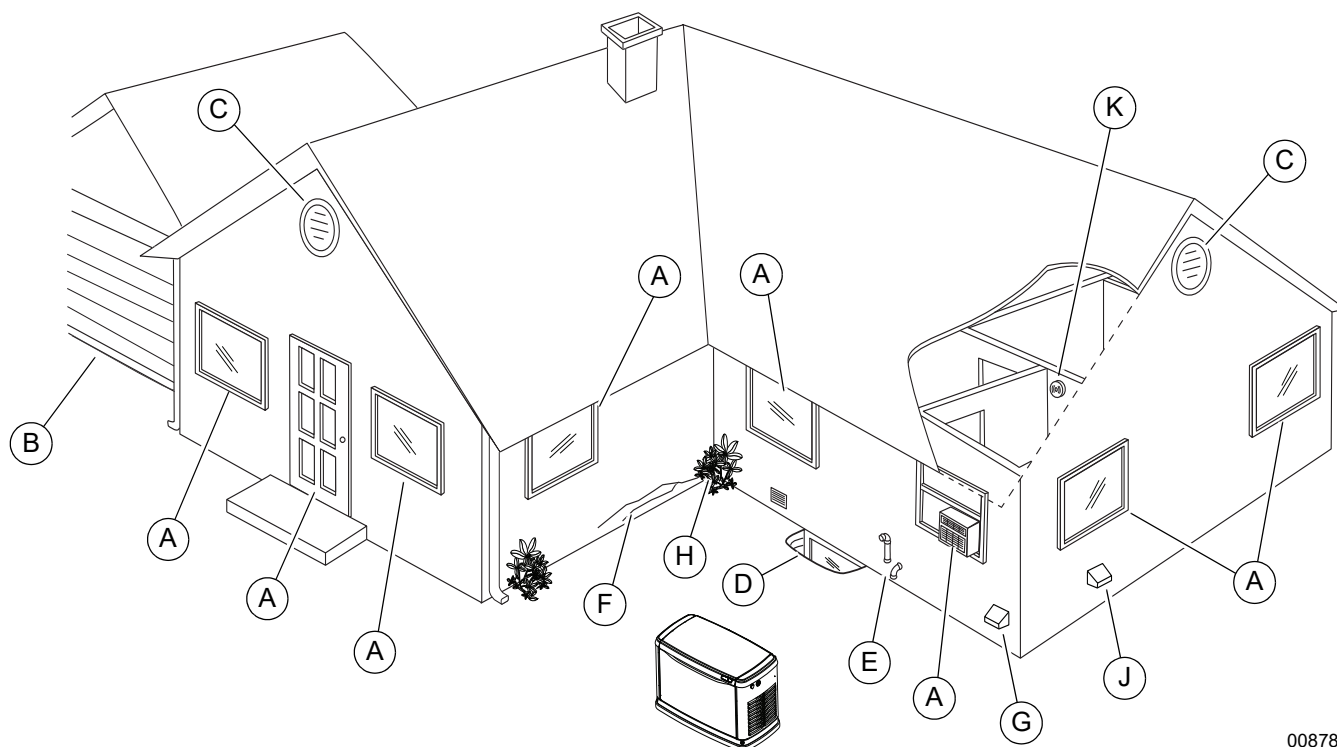
Potential CO Entry Points

See [Figure 1](#). 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.

Protect the Structure

Verify structure itself is correctly caulked and sealed to prevent air from leaking in or out. Voids, cracks, or openings around windows, doors, soffits, pipes, and vents can allow exhaust gas to be drawn into the structure.

Some examples of potential entry points are described and included in, but not limited to, the accompanying table.



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Figure 1. Carbon Monoxide—Potential Entry Points

ID	Entry Point	Description / Comments
A	Windows and doors	Architectural details which can be (or are) opened to admit fresh air into the structure.
B	Garage door	CO can leak into garage if door is open, or does not seal correctly when closed.
C	Attic vent	Attic vents, ridge vents, crawl space vents, and soffit vents can all admit generator exhaust.
D	Basement windows	Windows or hatches allowing ventilation to or from lower level of a structure.
E	Furnace intake / exhaust vent	Air intake and exhaust pipes for furnace.
F	Wall cracks	Includes (but not limited to) cracks in wall, foundation, mortar, or air gaps around doors, windows, and pipes. See Protect the Structure .
G	Dryer vent	Exhaust duct for clothes dryer.
H	Airflow restrictions	Structural features, including but not limited to: corners, alcoves, fences, courtyards, and areas with heavy vegetation can restrict correct airflow around unit. Exhaust gases can be collected in these areas.
J	HVAC components	Do not direct generator discharge into HVAC components, including but not limited to: make up air systems, AC condensers, and window AC units. IMPORTANT NOTE: Mechanical and gravity outdoor air intake openings for HVAC supply air systems shall be located according to Section 401 in the ICC Mechanical Code. See ICC Mechanical Code for any additional requirements.