



Pitt and Greene
Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Where customers have a choice



**7 Electrical Safety Tips
for Your Home**

16



**10 Do's and Don'ts When
Using Portable Generators**

17

A MESSAGE FOR YOU

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EVP and General Manager



Beat the Peak

When you look around your home, you will notice more devices and equipment that require more electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Pitt & Greene EMC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply, regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you can see with your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Pitt & Greene EMC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including Pitt & Greene EMC typically pay more for electricity, either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power, during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the term "peak times" is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak times. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand,

we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.





7 Electrical Safety Tips for Your Home

Using electricity is second nature. We run heating or air conditioning constantly, use refrigerators, microwaves and indoor lighting, and charge computers, phones and other devices daily. Now, more than ever, it's easier to mismanage our energy use and appliances at home, which could either overwork our system or even create an electrical accident.

Learning how to properly use your home's electrical system and your electronic devices can make a huge difference in how efficiently your electricity works for your home. It can also help prevent electrical accidents and keep you and your family safe.

Stay safe at home with these seven tips:

1 Avoid overloading outlets

Make sure your outlet isn't being overloaded with too many devices and appliances using adapters and extension cords. Additionally, only one heat-producing device should be plugged into an outlet at a time (coffee maker, hair dryer, etc.), and refrigerators, ovens, laundry machines and other major appliances should be plugged straight into the wall and not an adapter or extension cord.

2 Unplug appliances when not in use

Not only will unplugging appliances prevent you from using unnecessary energy, but it could also help protect your appliances from surges and other electrical mishaps.

3 Use the proper wattage for lamps and lighting fixtures

The recommended wattage is what keeps your lamps shining safely. There should be a sticker indicating the maximum wattage of the bulb needed. Lamps should also be used with a shade or globe to prevent other items from heating up if they are too close to the bulb, particularly if you are using incandescent bulbs. LEDs are a great way to light up a room without all the wasted heat energy.

4 Never run electrical cords under carpets, rugs doors or windows

Running cords throughout your house can cause tripping hazards as well as inviting electrical accidents when they're consistently out in the open. A cord under a rug or

carpet is a fire hazard. If you find you're using extension cords regularly, consult your electrician about adding new outlets around your home within reach of the things you need to have plugged in.

5 Get rid of damaged extension cords

Making sure you're using the correct extension cord for the environment and circumstance will help prolong the lifespan of your cords. They are meant to be replaced as needed. Never try to fix a damaged cord. Updating or upgrading your extension cords when they're not working properly will help prevent sparks, surges, and electrical fires. Your extension cords should also have surge protectors.

6 Keep electrical appliances and tools away from water

You're probably well aware that water and electricity don't mix, but it's sometimes easy to overlook hazards in everyday situations. Make sure you're keeping kitchen appliances a safe distance from sinks and the other appliances that use water. Also be sure that all outlets near a water source are ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCI, receptacles. These can quickly shut off power at the outlet when a short circuit is detected.

7 Call a professional

If your lights are flickering, your circuits are tripped frequently, you see sparks or smell burning or rubbery odors, it's time to call a trained electrician. These warnings signal a larger electrical problem that needs to be addressed at the source quickly rather than waiting it out or leaning on a temporary solution.

Many of us are working or spending more time at home in general. Following these basic electrical tips can help you avoid serious electrical issues or injuries.

Play it Safe

10 Do's and Don'ts when Using Portable Generators

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a generator in the event of an outage, Pitt & Greene EMC reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

- **DO:** Install backup CO alarms.
- **DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- **DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
- **DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
- **DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
- **DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially-enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
- **DON'T:** Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
- **DON'T:** Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **DON'T:** Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
- **DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

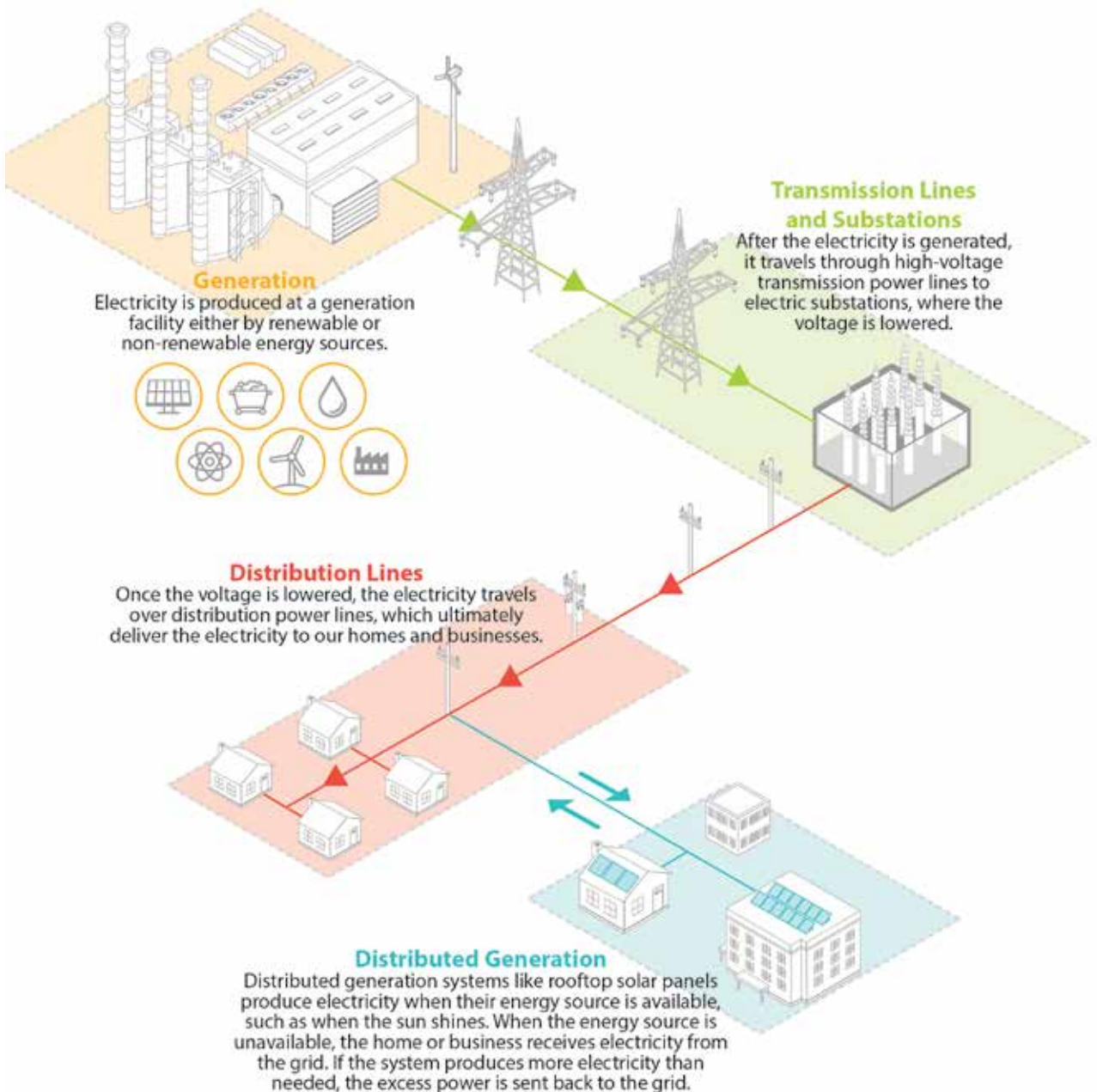
While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous, even deadly, if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.



Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 12, 2023.

HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



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