

**AVENBURY LAKES
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE
SAVINGS & SAFETY TIPS
#2
EMERGENCY BACK UP POWER**

Several people have asked about the cost of installing a back-up generator in case their electric power is suddenly interrupted, what capacity should be installed to meet their needs and whether they should install an automatic one or buy a portable one, and where is the best place to install it.

Installation of a generator requires prior approval of the Architecture Committee. A copy of the Architecture Standard for Generators can be found on the Avenbury Lakes web site or at the Information Office.

Installed Costs for Automatic Standby Generators will vary between \$6,000 and \$9,000 depending on the capacity required. For instance, a “whole house” generator could handle the living room, master bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, sump pump, furnace, and a small central air conditioning unit. Some of the larger homes in Avenbury may require a larger circuit unit.

The key is to determine exactly what areas you need to have standby electric power for and select the proper size unit with the help of a “**Qualified Contractor,**” an experienced contractor that is licensed for gas and electrical installations, is insured, is registered with the City of Avon, and pulls the necessary permits with the city.

Permanent back-up generators are the best way to go for several reasons:

1. They are fully automatic, transferring load within 30 seconds.
2. They are much quieter, more convenient and do not have to be manually moved about.
3. A portable unit can use up to 400 gallons of gas during a two-week outage. If the gas station is without power, so are the gas pumps.

The best places to install the unit are on the side of your home where either the electrical panel or the gas line are located. The decision should be up to the “Qualified Contractor” as he determines your needs.

There are several brands of standby generators on the market. They will all work and, like anything else you buy, they will vary slightly in price and quality. The key is to choose a name brand generator and have a “**Qualified and Licensed Contractor**” help you select the size that is right for the appliances you want to protect in the event of an extended power outage, especially if you travel south in the winter months.

The Information Office, as well as the Architecture Committee, have a list of contractors that can address any of the above concerns if needed.

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