

There's Still Time For Fun!!

Summer's not officially over until September 22nd so there is still plenty of time to have summer fun in our great state. There's so much going on in September that we had to be really selective with the events we chose. Check out all that's going on!

Michigan Renaissance Festival, (weekends) from August 20-October 2, 2022. Holly Michigan. Michigan State Fair, September 1-5, 2022, Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI. Carnival Midway, Livestock exhibits, Circus performances, Beer garden, Entertainment tent, Agriculture booths, Vendor booths. Fun Michigan Labor Day Events 2022!

Richmond Area Good Old Days Festival, Richmond, MI September 8-11, 2022, It was voted MICHIGAN'S BEST Small Town Festival. Carnival, motor sports, parade, fireworks and more

Brighton's Smokin' Jazz & Barbecue Blues Festival, Brighton, MI September 9-11, 2022, 6 pm-12 pm, Downtown Brighton. Fun September activities 2022. Award winning barbecue will once again be smokin' up Main Street from Grand River to 1st Street; serving up ribs, pulled pork, beef brisket, pork tenderloin, sweet treats, specialty mac n' cheese and much more

Northville Heritage Festival, September 16, 17 and 18, 2022

Troy Family Daze Festival, Troy, MI, September 15-18, 2022, Celebrate family, fun, heritage and cuisine.

South Lyon Pumpkinfest Saturday, September 24 from 10a-7p & Sunday, September 25 from 11a-6 Downtown South Lyon. Enjoy the annual parade, craft show, food, music, live music, inflatables, Ultimate Air Dogs, Biergarten, and much more at the annual Pumpkinfest.

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Generator Maintenance Tips Before Winter Hits from Briggs & Stratton

Snow storms and ice storms this winter can cause power outages lasting days, and the thought of enduring a winter outage without a Briggs & Stratton portable or standby generator providing the power you need can be menacing. As the colder weather approaches, ensuring you have properly maintained your generator, provides the peace of mind that it will start no matter what Old Man Winter throws your way.

You may be a die-hard do-it-yourselfer, or a little bit intimidated by the process but, either way, our online store makes it easy to tune-up your portable or standby generator with a wide variety of tools, parts, and resources available. Read on for tips to ensure your Briggs & Stratton generator is up and running anytime you might need it.

Portable Generator Maintenance:

Use Fuel Stabilizer

Don't use your portable generator often? Store it with an empty fuel tank or use treated fuel to deter gum from forming in and clogging up the fuel system. Add STA-BIL® Storage to clean, fresh fuel before filling the fuel tank and then run your generator for a few minutes to circulate the treated fuel through the fuel system.

STA-BIL fuel additives are the official fuel treatment of all Briggs & Stratton® engines.

Change Your Generator Oil

Make sure your Briggs portable generator has enough oil in it to keep it running smoothly and lengthen your engine's life. Many generators shut down automatically to protect the engine if the oil level gets too low. To keep your engine protected and ready for any DIY project or home emergency, check the oil level whenever you add fuel by referencing the dipstick and filling to the full marker. Keep a few quarts of oil on hand in case of emergencies.

Be sure to refer to your engine manual and the Briggs & Stratton Engine Oil Recommendation page for specifications.

Inspect Replaceable Parts Regularly

In addition to the engine oil, check out your air filter, fuel filter and spark plug regularly according to your portable generator owner's manual. Briggs & Stratton makes it easy to reference your manual with our Operator's Manual page. We also offer a huge selection of affordable parts that maintain your warranty coverage on our website.

Standby Generator Maintenance:

Maintenance Kits

Maintaining your standby generator is very similar to a regular tune-up and oil change on your vehicle. If you're comfortable in the garage then maintaining your standby generator is equally as easy. We offer complete maintenance kits specifically for your generator to ensure you have everything you need to do the job right.

Standby generator maintenance kits help keep your system running at peak performance, and are designed for scheduled and preventative maintenance practices, delivering the security you rely on when the power goes out.

Partner with an Expert

If you do not have the time, or are not comfortable maintaining your standby generator yourself, trust our expert servicing to take care of the servicing work for you. Ashcott Electrical will ensure your standby generator is ready for the winter months ahead. Invest in regular maintenance packages for the best value, and be confident this winter that your backup generator will work to keep you and your family warm if the power goes out.

Contact Ashcott Electrical at (734) 449-0553

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General Generator Maintenance

Our home's power supply is something we don't often pause to think about. It is as natural to us as breathing. As long as both of these processes flow uninterrupted, we take them for granted. The moment either one suddenly stops it becomes immediately apparent that it is at best an inconvenience and at worst an emergency. The functions of most homes rely on power to keep warm or cool, to keep your food supply safe, your plumbing from freezing and as many are now working from home, your livelihood protected. Many homes also need power for medical devices that need to be in continuous operation such as oxygen and C-pap machines. For these families maintaining a steady flow of power is a matter of life and death.

Younger families often learn, through great inconvenience, that generators really need to be a part of protecting your home and families during summer and winter storms. Trees can fall down at all times during the year and take down power lines or the power company itself could experience outages for various reasons. In which case, the portable generator would have to be purchased, the manual read, the installation process mastered and safety precautions learned. It would need to be carried and placed in a safe place outside of a home or garage or shed. For subsequent uses it becomes important that you maintain the generator between uses and have a ready supply of the fuel it needs to run properly. It is best practice to maintain your generator on a schedule before the winter weather hits. Make sure the smaller tasks are done. This would include:

Changing oil filters

Checking to see the spark plugs are working effectively

Checking the fluid levels

Make sure that the batteries are operating.

Protecting yourself and your property are of utmost importance. To avoid injury, it is vital that owners follow key safety measures including:

Fumes: portable and standby generators emit dangerous carbon monoxide fumes, so they should only be used outdoors and away from open windows or doors.
Power Cords: A 30-amp cord or higher is required. The higher the amp of the cord, the more electricity it can transfer.

Gas: Never add fuel while the unit is running or hot. And don't overfill the tank; always allow room for fuel expansion.

Good reading: To protect yourself, your generator and your property, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

For those families that require more security in their power flow, perhaps the elderly who cannot lift and carry the generators or properly place them in a safe spot, or those with medical conditions that must not have an interruption to their devices, a permanently installed stand by generator would be the safest choice. These are also the most convenient for household that would just rather make the onetime investment and not have to worry about maintenance, proper installation or safety concerns in the future. Households that have frequent or prolonged power outages, store large amounts of cold food, or live in a climate where heating and cooling is essential would benefit from investing in a stand by generator as well. Stand by generators start automatically when the power goes out, provide a seamless transition from grid power to generator, are designed to run for extended periods and often improved home value.

How You Can Stay Safe From Electrical Hazards During a Storm

Severe storms and natural disasters are obviously very dangerous and can cause a lot of damage to homes. One of the biggest concerns during a powerful storm is how it can affect your electrical system. For example, during many strong storms, there is a chance that you could lose power. What can you and your family do to stay safe in this circumstance? We'll discuss how to prepare, what to do during, and even ways to remain safe after the storm passes.

Preparing For a Storm (Before)

Here is a checklist of some things you can do before a storm is expected to hit your home. This checklist includes how to prep your home and also some supplies you should have on hand.

- The first thing for you to consider is having a backup generator installed at your home. A backup generator, even a temporary one, would be able to help provide some electricity to your home in the case of a power outage. Ashcott Electrical can help find the generator that fits your home as well as get it installed for you!
- Make sure that you have portable chargers for electronic devices, batteries, flashlights, and food.
- If you have a well, be sure that you draw extra water in case the electric water pumps don't work during the power outage.
- If you have to evacuate your home for some reason, be sure that you shut your electricity off from the breaker box. This will help ensure that no serious damage is done to the electrical in your home.

In The Storm (During)

Once the storm hits there's only so much that you can do; you'll have to be prepared to wait it out. However, there are a few tips for how you can best conserve electricity and all of your electronic devices. Here's a checklist for what to do during the storm.

- Unplug all sensitive electronic devices (i.e., your TV, sound system, computers, microwaves, etc.) These devices can potentially be ruined during power surges so it's best to disconnect them.
- Tune in to local news or radio stations to be updated on the status of the power outage.
- Refrain from opening and closing the fridge/freezer several times. These appliances take a lot of energy and if the power goes out, they can lose their cool quickly. Opening and closing them often will cause the cool air to escape – your food will go bad quicker.
- Stay calm – panicking about the storm or a power outage won't do you or your family any good!

In The Wake Of The Storm (After)

The storm has passed (yay!) but there may still be some concerns that need your attention. Here are some key things to be mindful of after a harsh storm that's knocked the power out.

- Make sure that after power is restored you wait 5-10 minutes before plugging appliances back in. This will help protect those devices from experiencing an electrical surge once the power is back on.
- Be careful of fallen power lines around your home. These fallen lines can be VERY dangerous and should always be treated as if they are still live. If your neighbors haven't already, be sure to call the electrical provider in your area to have professionals come out.
- If you're still experiencing power outages/issues, be sure to talk to some neighbors. There's a chance that in the chaos you tripped a breaker or blew a fuse. If this is the case you should call a professional out to repair the problem asap!

Large storms can be nerve-racking and it's especially scary when you think about losing power, but we hope that this information will help you to be prepared for this possibility. As always, we want to remind you that Ashcott Electrical is here for all of your electrical needs.