ELECTRICIAN PROS — GUIDE

Plan a standby generator installation

Define essential loads and get a site-specific plan for power, fuel and approvals.

Updated November 10, 2026

Make a list of what must keep running during an outage. Separate essential equipment from conveniences. Give the installer the equipment details, rather than choosing a generator from the size of the house alone.

Start with the load plan

Generac's home standby page describes a dealer assessment of backup priorities, placement, fuel supply and transfer options. We fetched it on 2026-11-10. It is a manufacturer source, not an independent guarantee for every brand or property.

Ask the contractor to explain which circuits the design serves, which loads are managed and what happens when equipment starts together. Discuss medical equipment and business operations directly with the relevant equipment provider as well. Do not assume an automatic start means uninterrupted power.

Include every trade in the scope

Ask for a site plan that covers the generator location, electrical route, transfer equipment, fuel supply and maintenance access. Have the installer identify who handles fuel work and any other trade work. Request the selected model's installation instructions before approving a location.

Do not use a generic web distance as a clearance for a specific unit. Ask the installer and local authority to confirm the proposed location against the equipment instructions and applicable requirements. Put that confirmation with the project file.

Price the complete installation

Request separate lines for equipment, transfer hardware, electrical labour, fuel work, site preparation, permits, inspections and commissioning. Ask whether restoration and removal of old equipment are included. Have the contractor describe any exclusions.

Generac's page includes planning, permits and coordination with qualified installers in its project process. In Washington, L&I says electrical work generally requires a permit and inspection, subject to its exceptions. Confirm the authority for the address. These sources were checked 2026-11-10; they do not establish a permit rule for other locations.

Agree on the outage and handover

Ask when power must be disconnected and who coordinates that event. Keep the utility contact and contractor contact available. Arrange a demonstration after installation. Ask the installer to show the controls, explain alarms and give you the inspection and commissioning records.

Keep the model details, service contact, maintenance instructions and warranty documents together. Ask who provides fault support and what service is included. A standby generator is not the same project as using a portable unit. Request advice for the actual equipment and connection method.

Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-10. This is the check date, not a claim that each page was published that day.

- Generac, Home Standby Generators. Checked 2026-11-10.
- Washington L&I, Electrical Permits, Fees & Inspections. Checked 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does the generator price cover installation?

Ask for an itemised quote. Equipment, fuel work, transfer equipment and approvals may be separate.

Can this guide set a safe clearance?

No. Use the selected model instructions and the authorities responsible for the site.