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Generator Maintenance Tips

Follow these generator maintenance tips to ensure your generator starts and runs properly when called upon.



by JOEL YOUNGMAN
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Although they're often neglected, generators require proper maintenance to ensure they start and run properly when called upon. The following generator maintenance tips will help ensure you're not stuck in the dark the next time the power goes out.

Top Generator Maintenance Tips



Starting and running your generator periodically helps evaporate moisture that may have accumulated in the oil while also charging the battery on electric-start units.

Keep Enough Oil In Stock

Check the owner's manual for recommended oil-change intervals, and be aware that most new generators require an oil change after the first 25 hours of use. Be sure you have enough extra oil on hand should you need to run your generator for an extended period.

AMSOIL Synthetic Small-Engine Oil helps preserve engine power, reduce oil consumption and reduce maintenance in small engines used in severe service. Its long-life formulation has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to safely exceed OEM drain intervals in the toughest conditions.

Test Periodically

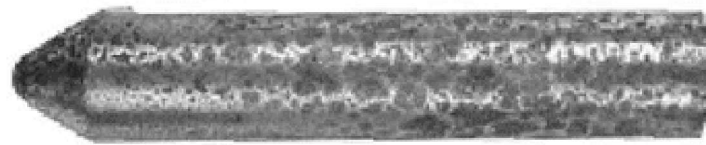
Start the generator every few months to ensure it runs well. Allow it to run long enough to charge the battery for the electric starter. Try plugging in an electrical device to ensure it receives power.

Keep Your Fuel Fresh And Clean

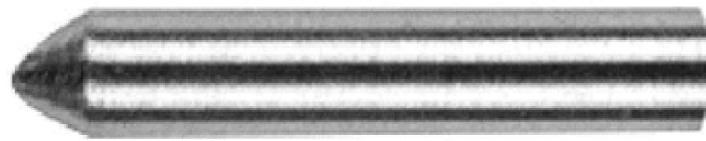
Many generator starting problems can be traced to old fuel. Be sure to always use fresh fuel, or use AMSOIL Gasoline Stabilizer to keep fuel from deteriorating for up to 12 months. As the image shows, it also provides excellent corrosion protection for maximum fuel-system performance and life.

It's also important to keep the fuel clean. Store fuel in a clean fuel container and keep it away from high-traffic areas.

Foam® Motor Treatment can't match, helping maintain power and performance and keeping metal looking like new even when subjected to salt water.*



Sea Foam



AMSOIL

**Based upon independent testing of AMSOIL Gasoline Stabilizer obtained Nov. 8, 2018 and Sea Foam Motor Treatment purchased Oct. 25, 2018 in a modified NACE TM0172 using synthetic sea water per ASTM D665 part B.*

Check Air Filters

Regularly check the generator's air filter. If it appears dirty, it can often be cleaned with soap and water. Be cautious not to tear the filter, and be sure it dries completely before reinstalling.



TWEET THIS

Replace the air filter according to the recommendations in your owner's manual.

Check Fuel Lines



When it's needed.

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Clean The Engine

Use an air hose to remove dust and dirt from the engine. Use AMSOIL Heavy-Duty Degreaser to remove grease and grime. Once clean, check for oil leaks. Tighten or replace any parts where leaks are spotted.

Check Spark Plug

Along with old fuel, another common cause of starting problems is a bad spark plug. Check the spark plug periodically for residue or damage. If it's dirty, clean it with a wire brush. If starting problems persist, replace it. The spark plug should also be replaced if it's visibly damaged.

Use A Proper Power Cord

People often place their generators away from the house to cut down on disruptive noise. To reduce voltage drop and premature wear on your unit, use a heavy-duty, 12-gauge cord that is no longer than 100 feet.

Follow these generator maintenance tips and your generator should provide reliable power for years.

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by JOEL YOUNGMAN

AMSOIL Lead Technical Writer for more than two decades.

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