

# Generator Breaker Panel Usage Instructions

The following instructions will guide you through the process of using the generator breaker panel with a generator in the event of a power outage. The instructions will cover (1) the correct order for flipping generator panel switches prior to starting the generator, (2) the correct order for flipping switches back on after the generator is started, and (3) a map with instructions on how to return the switches to their normal positions once power has been restored. These instructions will not cover the operation of the generator itself. Aside from acquainting yourself with your specific generator, no other prior knowledge is required to use these instructions.

## Equipment and Supplies

Generator with a maximum output of 50 amperes

Utility grade power cord rated for a maximum of 50 amperes

### Caution:

Only use a generator and power cord rated for 50 amperes maximum with the utility grade outlet. Failure to adhere to these amperage guidelines may result in damage to equipment. The utility outlet shown in Figure 1 below is located on the left side of the house when facing the front door.



*Figure 1. Utility outlet located outside garage.*

### **DANGER:**

**Follow the safety instructions included with your specific generator. In general, a generator should be operated outdoors or in the garage with the garage door open to the outdoors. Operating a generator indoors or inside the garage without proper ventilation to the outdoors may result in sickness or death.**

## In the Event of a Power Outage

The following instructions will guide you through the process of using the generator breaker panel with a generator in the event of a power outage. Refer to Figure 2 below for a photograph of the generator breaker panel and a legend of each of the switches' on and off positions.

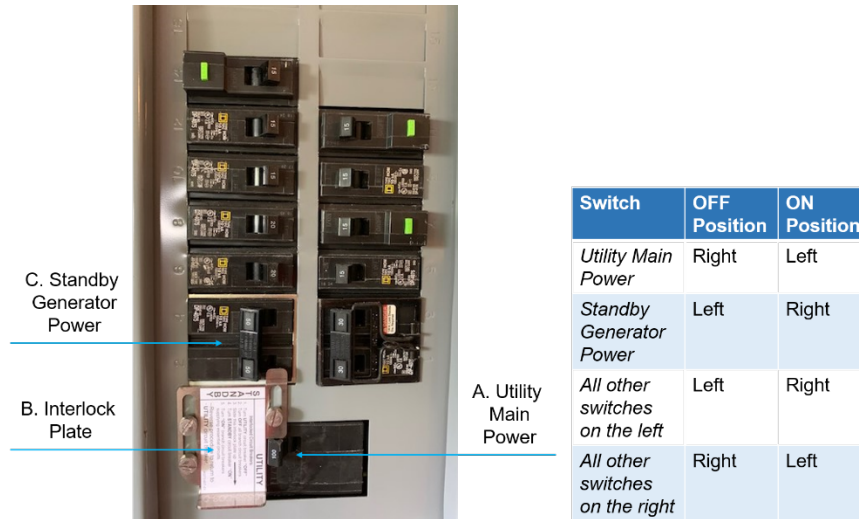


Figure 2. Generator breaker panel and switch positions legend.

*Note:* The only switches that need to be changed in the event of a power outage are those in the generator breaker panel.

In the event of a power outage, follow the instructions below to use your generator with the generator panel:

1. Flip A. Utility Main Power switch to the **RIGHT/OFF** position.
2. Flip all other switches **OFF**:
  - (a) Flip switches on the left side of the panel to the **LEFT**.
  - (b) Flip switches on the right side of the panel to the **RIGHT**.
3. Plug your generator into the utility grade outlet on the side of the house near the heat pump (left side of house when facing the front door).
4. Start your generator (refer to the instruction manual that came with your specific generator).
5. Allow the generator to run for 1-2 minutes prior to proceeding with steps 6-8 below.
6. Slide B. Interlock Plate **DOWN**.
7. Flip C. Standby Generator Power switch to the **LEFT/ON** position.
8. Flip the switches for the devices you wish to use **ON**:
  - (a) Flip switches on the left side of the panel to the **RIGHT**.
  - (b) Flip switches on right side of the panel to the **LEFT**.

## Once Power Is Restored

The following instructions will guide you through the process of reconnecting to the utility company's power supply. Refer to Figure 3 below for a photograph of the generator breaker panel and a legend of each of the switches' on and off positions.

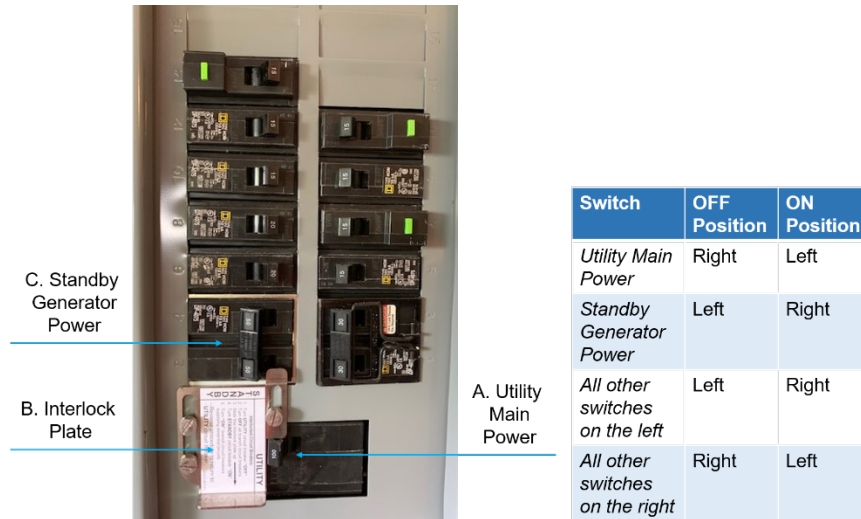


Figure 3. Generator breaker panel and switch positions legend.

### Notes:

1. As before, the only switches that need to be changed once power is restored are those in the generator breaker panel.
2. When the power comes back on at the power plant, there is no indication from the system. Possible ways to know if the power is back on include:
  - (a) Neighbors' power and/or street lights are back on.
  - (b) Neighbors' generators are no longer running.
  - (c) The power company's website says power is restored to your area.
  - (d) You received a notification from the power company to let you know your power is restored.

Once power is restored, follow the instructions below for returning switches to normal operating positions:

1. Flip all switches (except C. Standby Generator Power switch) **OFF**:
  - (a) Flip switches on the left side of the panel to the **LEFT**.
  - (b) Flip switches on the right side of the panel to the **RIGHT**.
2. Flip C. Standby Generator Power switch to the **RIGHT/OFF** position.
3. Turn your generator **OFF**.
4. Unplug your generator.
5. Slide B. Interlock Plate **UP**.
6. Flip A. Utility Main Power switch to the **LEFT/ON** position.
7. Flip all switches (except C. Standby Generator Power switch) **ON**:
  - (a) Flip switches on the left side of the panel to the **LEFT**.
  - (b) Flip switches on the right side of the panel to the **RIGHT**.

## Under Normal Operating Conditions

Frequent power outages in the neighborhood, due to construction and acts of nature, led us to purchase a generator and have a generator-specific breaker panel installed. An electrician rerouted some components from the main breaker panel into the generator panel. As a result of these changes, the switch labels can be confusing to read and understand. Photographs of each breaker panel are included in Figures 4 and 5 in the appendix with labels indicating what each switch controls. Switches labeled with the ☹ symbol have been rerouted to the generator breaker panel and are inactive. Aside from those switches with the ☹ symbol, the wording and numbers for the labels in Figures 4 and 5 are shown exactly as they are on the metal-punched and handwritten labels installed by the contractors and electricians. When the power is operating normally, both panels are operational.

## Additional Assistance

If you wish to change the areas and items in the house that can be supported by a generator, or if you are experiencing any issues, you may want to contact the electrician who installed the generator breaker panel. Contact Brian McDonald, owner/operator at BRM Electric, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BRMElectric/>, or on his website at <https://brmelectrical.com/>.

## Appendix


34. Dishwasher		35. ☉
32. Disposal		33. ☉
30. Sunroom		31. KitBALaundryLites
28. ☉		29. Foyer+Garage
26. Bsmt Plugs		27. GrgOutletPlug
24. ☉		25. ☉
22. LTCar Charger		23. Furnace
20. RTCar Charger		21. KitchenPlugs?
18. Down Draft		19. ☉
16. BA Plugs		17. Washer
14. DR Plugs		15. Dryer
12. Cooktop		13. Dryer
10. Cooktop		11. ☉
8. Wall Oven		9. ☉
6. Wall Oven		7. OutsideUnit
4. Furnace		5. OutsideUnit
2. Furnace		3. Generator
		1. Generator

Figure 4. Utility main breaker panel and labels.


14. Master BR		11. Front BR
12. UpperHall BA		9. Smoke Det
10. BasemtLights		7. Back BRs(x2)
8. Sump Pump		5. Family Rm
6. Kitchen+Fridge		3. H <sub>2</sub> O Heater
4. Generator		1. H <sub>2</sub> O Heater
2. Generator		
Interlock Plate		UtilityMainPower

Figure 5. Generator breaker panel and labels.