

## BACK UP GENERATORS

To help property owners secure their homes and businesses from loss of power, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is providing this permitting guide. Depending on the way a backup power generator is installed, the project may or may not need a TRPA permit. The options below vary from being fully Exempt from TRPA review, to requiring a full TRPA permit.

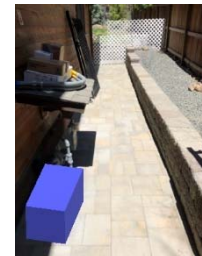
### Full TRPA Permit:

When the installation of a generator will result in any amount of increased or relocated [land coverage](#), and/or the installation requires more than [seven cubic yards](#) of grading, a full TRPA permit will be required. The requirements of the applicable project category (e.g., single family residential, commercial, etc.) will apply. A generator installed as shown below (on a concrete pad) would require a full TRPA permit.



### Exempt from TRPA Review:

If a generator can be placed in a location that will not create additional land coverage AND the installation requires less than [three cubic yards](#) of grading, the installation will be fully Exempt from TRPA review. Exempt projects do not require any documentation nor contact with TRPA. This can be accomplished a number of ways. The generator can be placed in an area that is already considered coverage (e.g., on existing pavement), or can be installed in a way that, by applying the [3:1 height reduction credit](#), will not create coverage (e.g., within the "coverage shadow" of an elevated deck or other elevated structure). See sample photos below.



### Exempt “Generator Stands”

One option for an exempt project is to install a generator on a “generator stand.” There are companies who manufacture these stands in standard dimensions, that should accommodate the most common generators. These can also be custom made, and should be sized appropriately so that, when applying the [3:1 height reduction credit](#), the generator installation will not create additional land coverage.

Below is an example of a generator stand in standard dimensions. A generator stand like this (i.e., 36” in height) will accommodate the most common size of generator (approximately 26” x 49”) without creating additional land coverage. Larger generators may require a stand that is higher off the ground.



### Home Battery Backups

Temporary home energy can also be provided by battery systems created for this purpose. These are typically installed on an exterior or interior wall.

Battery backup systems provide clean, sustainable backup energy for your home. With no emissions at the source, the products protect air quality and help the region achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals. When paired with rooftop solar energy collectors, they can provide safe, reliable, and renewable energy security for your home.

A battery system that does not require new or relocated coverage, or substantial soil disturbance (as stated above), would be Exempt from TRPA review.



For any follow-up questions, please call TRPA at (775) 588-4547. Press 3 to leave a message for planning technicians. Your call should be returned within 48 hours.

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