

ultimate washer

The last thing you want when your power goes out is for your generator to be malfunctioning. Run through this checklist every year to make sure your generator will work when you need it.

<input type="checkbox"/> Clean your Generator	<p>If you do not clean your generator, you may have a hard time finding leaks later. Clean your generator with rags and a degreaser.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check The Gas Tank	<p>If gas has been left in the generator for a long period of time, it can gum up and block the fuel filter, fuel lines, carburetor, &etc. If there is old gas in the machine, check your manual for the manufacturer's recommendations. Some units can simply be drained and primed with new fuel, while other manufacturers call for a more complete generator service including replacement of old lines and filters along with a cleaning of the carburetor and tank.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Change the Oil	<p>It is a good idea to change your oil yearly no matter how many hours you have used the generator. Run your generator for a few minutes first to get the engine warm as this will help the oil and contaminants to drain easier. Then place an oil catcher under the oil pan and remove the cap. After the oil has drained, replace the cap and change the oil filter. Now you can fill the engine with the manufacturer's recommended oil and start the generator again. After running for a few minutes, turn the generator off and check the oil level once more.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check the Air Filter	<p>Air filters vary greatly by engine, some are rings with no center, some have centers and some are flat pieces. It usually just requires pulling the old air filter, cleaning the slot it sat in, and inserting the new one. If anything is holding the air filter in place, it is usually just a screw or wing nut. Check the generators manual to see how to replace your generator's air filter.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check the Spark Plugs	<p>After disconnecting the wire, clean around the old sparkplug to prevent debris from falling in once you remove it. Then you can use a spark plug socket to remove the old spark plug. Clean the spark plug with a spark plug cleaner and a wire brush. If there are any persistent deposits or cracks in the porcelain, replace it. When replacing a sparkplug, it is important to adjust the gap between the electrodes to the manufacturer's specs with a spark plug gauge. When the gap is properly set, you may replace the spark plug and re-attach the wire.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check the Fuel Filter	<p>This can vary by manufacturer, but for most inline fuel filters, you will simply close the fuel valve, remove the clamps on either side of the filter and pull the old one off. Look through the filter to ensure you can see light shining through. If you cannot, it is time to replace it. To replace your fuel filter, just do the reverse process, but make sure to keep the inside of the filter clean. If your filter has an arrow on it, point it in the direction of the fuel flow.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check the Battery	<p>Use a solution of baking soda and water to clean any corrosion from the contacts. Use a battery tester to check the state of the battery and replace it if need be.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Run for 30 Minutes with a Load	<p>This should really be done once a month to keep it from being idle too long, but if it has not been done for a year, for sure do it. This will be your final check to make sure everything is running fine. Remember to take the gas out of it or run it out of gas before storing it.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check for Leaks	<p>If you did not see any leaks during your initial cleaning, now is another good time to check. After the unit has been operated some leaks may have presented themselves. It is helpful to run the generator on a clean surface or place it on some cardboard to help identify leaks.</p>