

This type of system includes the use of a portable gasoline powered generator, usually ranging in size from 4,000 – 10,000watts. It requires manually starting, stopping, re-fueling and plugging in a portable generator into an inlet-receptacle that back-feeds the existing main panel. This receptacle is usually located just outside from the main panel, but it can be installed at a location that is more accessible to where the Generator is stored.

The interlock, which is mounted on the main service panel, ensures that the Generator power cannot back feed into the utility. The interlock is manually Switched to enable the Generator to power the house. The only limit to what can run on Generator power is the rating of the Generator, typically smaller loads like lighting, sump-pumps, refrigerators, a gas furnace etc. It will not power larger appliances like Central Air Conditioning electric stoves, hot tubs etc. At the time of installation, we can label any high-power circuits that the Generator will not be able to run. These should be labeled so they remain in the off position while on Generator power.

One note about this system, since the main circuit breaker needs to be shut off during Generator operation, there is no indication when utility power is resorted. This may not be a problem at night when you can see when street lighting turns on, but during the day is more problematic. So, we always include the installation of a Power-Back Alarm which will indicate the restoration of utility power.

To use an interlock system

1. Turn main circuit breaker off
2. Turn off all branch Circuit Breakers
3. Slide interlock plate
4. Turn Generator circuit breaker on
5. Connect and start Generator
6. Turn on essential circuits one at a time