

FREE PRINTABLE QUESTION SHEET

Apartment Backup Power Safety Questions

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ASK BEFORE BUYING

Most apartment balconies cannot meet official portable-generator clearance guidance. Use this sheet to document building constraints and identify safer battery alternatives before an outage.

Generator safety gate

- ☐ Can it remain outdoors at least 20 feet from the home?
- ☐ Is it at least 20 feet from every window, door, and vent?
- ☐ Can exhaust face away from all buildings?
- ☐ Is the location open, not enclosed or partially enclosed?
- ☐ Are working CO alarms installed on every level and outside sleeping areas?

Property and local rules

- ☐ Does the lease prohibit generators or stored fuel?
- ☐ Do fire rules restrict fuel quantity or location?
- ☐ Are balconies and common areas restricted?
- ☐ Does local law impose noise or operating limits?
- ☐ Has property management answered in writing?

Questions for property management

QUESTION	ANSWER	PERSON AND DATE
What remains powered during an outage?		
Are elevators, entry systems, or pumps backed up?		
Are portable batteries permitted and where may they charge?		
Are generators or fuels permitted anywhere on the property?		
Where are building air intakes and vents?		
What is the emergency communication plan?		

Battery alternative checklist

- ☐ Phones and lights covered by power banks
- ☐ Internet stack measured for a UPS
- ☐ Power station sized from watts and hours
- ☐ Medical plan confirmed separately

- ☐ Charging location follows manufacturer guidance
- ☐ Unit does not block an exit
- ☐ Extension cords are avoided or safely routed
- ☐ Powered relocation destination identified



A CO alarm does not make an unsafe location safe

Never use a portable generator inside a home, garage, hallway, basement, shed, or other enclosed or partially enclosed area. Never backfeed a receptacle.

Written answer and approved plan