



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS



Portable Generators – Grounding Rod Requirements

Based on the 2017 National Electric Code

- A. **Grounding Rods** - Grounding rods are not required for portable or vehicle mounted generators per the following conditions:

Portable Generators – The frame of a portable generator is not required to be connected to grounding rods if:

1. The generator supplies:
 - a. Only equipment mounted on the generator,
 - b. Cord and plug connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the generator,
 - c. Or both.
2. All receptacles are ground fault circuit interruptible (GFCI) protected.

Vehicle Mounted Generators – The frame of a vehicle is not required to be connected to grounding rods if:

1. The frame of the generator is connected to the vehicle frame, and
2. The generator supplies only equipment located on the vehicle or cord and plug connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the vehicle, or both equipment located on the vehicle and cord and plug connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the vehicle or on the generator.
3. All receptacles are ground fault circuit interruptible (GFCI) protected.

Please note: If the above requirements cannot be met, then attachment to grounding rods will be required. See “Grounding Rod Installation Requirements” below.

- B. **Distribution Panels or Sub Systems** - Should any distribution panels or sub systems be fed by a portable or vehicle mounted generator, ground rods shall be installed per Article 250 of the 2017 National Electric Code. See “Grounding Rod Installation Requirements” below.

C. **Grounding Rod Installation Requirements** –

1. Two 5/8” diameter grounding rods, a minimum 8 ft. long. No more than 6 feet apart, bonded together with a maximum #6awg copper wire.
2. Clamps
3. Rods shall be located as close as possible the distribution panels or sub systems.