



Self-Help Guide: Back-Up Power for Bilevels



Bilevels are primarily powered by plugging the power cord into a wall outlet, also known as AC power. If your bilevel does not have an internal battery, and a power outage occurs, you will not be able to use your bilevel until power is restored. Even if your bilevel does have an internal battery, it may only supply power long enough to find an alternative power source.

This document provides information about alternative power sources for bilevels provided by the PROP program. PROP staff will be happy to assist with any questions you may have after reading through this document.

PROP Member Responsibilities

PROP does not supply back-up power solutions. PROP members are responsible for purchasing back-up power solutions for their bilevel and other devices they deem essential during a power outage.

It is essential that PROP members have an “Emergency Preparedness Plan” that should include, but is not limited to, a back-up power plan to run their essential electronic devices. The back-up power portion of your Emergency Preparedness Plan should include back-up power solutions, as well as locations near you with a back-up power source (ie: fire station, police station, hotel, hospital, etc).

During a power outage, you can contact BC Hydro, at 1-888-769-3766, for an estimate of when your power will be restored to your area.

Back-Up Power Solutions

External Battery Packs

External Battery Packs, either available from the manufacturer of your bilevel or a third-party manufacturer, are devices that contain a battery to power your bilevel when AC power is not available (power outage, travel, etc).





Most bilevel manufacturers produce an external battery pack to work with their devices, but the accessory cord you need to order with it depends on your bilevel model. You should contact the distributor of the external battery pack, to ensure it will work with your bilevel model, before making your purchase.

AC Back-Up Power Packs

An AC Back-Up Power Pack is a portable device that contains a battery and electronics to produce AC power during a power outage. AC back-up power packs come in a variety of sizes, so it is important to choose a size that ensures you have the power you require according to your Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Things to remember when purchasing and using an AC back-up power pack:



- Purchase an AC back-up power pack you think will work, then try it at home. If it doesn't last long enough, or lasts too long, exchange it for a more appropriate size.
- Be sure to keep your AC back-up power pack plugged into AC, ensuring it is fully charged when you need it.
- Adhere to manufacturer instructions on proper usage. Some AC back-up power packs require occasional discharging to maximize longevity.
- Some AC back-up power packs also have USB outlets and DC power outlets as well, to power your other electronics.
- Some AC back-up power packs are UPS (uninterrupted power supply) devices, which means they will automatically start powering your devices when the power goes out.
- Test your AC back-up power pack monthly, so you know how much time to expect when you need it. As they age, or your respiratory needs change, the time you receive from it may vary.

Examples of AC Back-Up Power Packs	Where to Purchase	Important Information
	Jackery.com Amazon.ca	-Very compact design -Available in many sizes -Can be powered by solar panel (extra cost) -Is NOT a UPS
	Amazon.ca	-Is a UPS device -Available in many sizes -Heavier than Jackery

Gas Powered Generators

A portable generator is a gasoline operated device which produces electricity. You can plug your bilevel into its built-in AC power outlets. This is an effective back-up power source if there is outdoor space to operate a gas generator. You will need a heavy-duty extension cord to plug your bilevel into the generator located outside.

WARNING: Gas powered generators produce carbon monoxide, which is fatal. Therefore, gas powered generators **MUST** be used outdoors.

Examples of Gas Powered Generators		Where to Purchase
	Westinghouse iGen2200	Amazon.ca
	Firman Gas Powered Inverter Generator	Costco.ca

Vehicle Accessory Cable (12V DC)

Vehicle Accessory Cables, available from the manufacturer of your bilevel, allow you to run your bilevel from your vehicles 12V DC accessory port. As long as you are running your vehicle, power is available to run your bilevel using these cables. Once the vehicle is turned off, your bilevel will no longer be using the vehicle battery as its power source.

PROP does have vehicle accessory cables for most PROP provided bilevels. If you need to borrow one, please contact us to see if we have the cable for your specific bilevel.

WARNING: DO NOT leave your vehicle running in a closed garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning is fatal!

WARNING: DO NOT fill your humidifier with water during use in a moving vehicle. There is a high probability that water from a humidifier will enter the bilevel, either damaging the bilevel or forcing it to power off.

