



Self-Help Guide: Back-Up Power for Ventilators



Ventilators are primarily powered by plugging the power cord into a wall outlet, also known as AC power. Your ventilator does have an internal battery, which allows you to use it during a power outage, but it is important to know how long the battery will last and what alternative power sources are available to power your ventilator.

This document provides information about alternative power sources for ventilators 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 ventilator 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.



Important Note:

While this document outlines back-up power for ventilators, it is paramount to realize that the Ambu-Bag is your primary piece of emergency equipment. Your Ambu-Bag needs to be functioning and ready to use at any moment. Perform daily checks to ensure everybody in your Support Team knows how to assist breathing with the Ambu-bag.

Back-Up Power Solutions

Detachable and External Battery Packs

A Battery Pack, designed and manufactured by the same company that makes your ventilator, is a device that contains a battery to power your ventilator in instances when AC power is unavailable (power outage, travel, etc).

Battery Packs come in two different forms, detachable battery or external battery pack.

Detachable battery packs are extra batteries that can be inserted into the ventilator. They are “hot-swappable”, which means you can remove one and insert another without interrupting the power to your ventilator. Some manufacturers also make chargers for these detachable battery packs.

External battery packs use a cable to connect the battery to the ventilator. When ordering, be sure to purchase the correct cable for your ventilator model.





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 to ensure 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 Explorer	Jackery.com Amazon.ca -Very compact design -Available in many sizes -Can be powered by solar panel (extra cost) -Is NOT a UPS
	CyberPower UPS System	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 ventilator 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 ventilator 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 ventilator, allow you to run your ventilator from your vehicles 12V DC accessory port. As long as you are running your vehicle, power is available to run your ventilator using these cables. Once the vehicle is turned off, your ventilator will no longer be using the vehicle battery as its power source.

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

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

