

# Diesel Generator Service:

## How often & What needs to be done?

A question that all generator owners/operators should ask themselves is “**generator service: how often & what needs to be done?**” It is especially important to make sure your generator is serviced regularly to prevent generator failure problems down the road. Scheduling regular generator servicing will help your generator maintain efficiency and provide emergency power for many years to come.

## GENERATOR SERVICING NEEDS

Following a few basic guidelines will make scheduling generator servicing easy. When thinking about generator service, how often, and what needs to be done, ask yourself the following question: how often do I run the generator? Generators that run frequently will require service more often than backup generators that are rarely in use. No matter the amount of usage, however, all generators require basic maintenance including.

- **Clean Generator:** All generators should be cleaned and checked for leaks annually.
- **Change Oil:** Oil should be changed every year or the recommended hours of use to improve reliability. (most of the major engine manufacturers specify 500hours)
  - Small portable generators need an oil change every 50 – 80 hours
- **Replace Oil Filter:** Oil filters should be replaced whenever the oil is changed to ensure the new oil is being filtered properly.
- **Change Air Filter:** Air filters need to be changed annually; dirty air filters will not be able to draw the required amount of clean air.
- **Change fuel filters:** Fuel filters should be changed when ever an oil change is being carried out.
- **Check Battery:** Battery power level should be checked as well as the battery’s general status. Make sure there is no corrosion visible on the battery or its connections.

These tasks should be performed regularly; the frequency depends on factors such as the type of generator and usage. The generator’s manual should include recommendations on how often servicing should occur for that specific model.

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**1. Ensure the generator is maintained correctly for the application:** Either use your internal generator specialists or ask your generator supplier to assist in developing rules of thumb around generator maintenance.

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**2. Regularly “load bank” your generators:** A load bank is a dummy load that enables a measured load to be delivered to your generator. Regular load banking can create heat in the bore and reverse the early symptoms of glazing.

Train your staff to identify the tell tail signs of glazing. Early stage glazing will be evidenced by excess engine smoking and often a treacle like substance to be running over the engine from the manifolds. **Give the team at Powerlite a call 1300 436 738**

**3. Engage your generator supplier:** to help develop preventative maintenance practices to ensure early detection and rectification of glazing.

Staying on top of service can add years of life to your generator and conversely, failure to do so can lead to costly rebuilds. Despite this being probably the most common maintenance issue that fleet owners and rental companies’ face in their generator fleets, it is surprising how few companies have a formal plan to prevent this expensive problem.

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