

Free checklist from Deepseal · usedeepseal.com/generator-maintenance-checklist · Version: October 2026 · Intervals and specs from the Generac, Kohler, Cummins, Briggs & Stratton and Champion owner's, installation and service manuals listed on the web page; commercial items from NFPA 110. The manual and nameplate for the unit in front of you override every number printed here. For trained technicians.

Generator Maintenance Checklist · Standby Generator Service Visit

Customer		Date	
Service address		Technician	
Make / model / serial		kW · install date	
Fuel and cooling	☐ Natural gas ☐ LP vapor ☐ Diesel · ☐ Air-cooled ☐ Liquid-cooled	Run hours as found	
Transfer switch	Make / model / amps: _____ ☐ Service rated · Load modules: _____	Agreement	☐ Yes, tier: _____ ☐ No
This visit counts as	☐ Annual visit ☐ Visit 1 of 2 ☐ Visit 2 of 2 ☐ Post-outage service ☐ One-time service · Interval due: ☐ Yearly ☐ 2-year / Schedule A ☐ 4-year / Schedule B ☐ Hours: _____		

How to use this sheet: sections 1 to 6 on every air-cooled home standby visit. Appendix A adds the liquid-cooled items. Appendix B adds the items for emergency and legally required systems under NFPA 110. Appendix C is the interval and spec reference by manufacturer. Write a number in every reading cell; next year's tech compares against it.

1. Before touching anything

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	Controller as found: mode, active alarms and warnings, maintenance messages, run hours, last exercise	In AUTO with no active alarm. Write down every message before clearing it	Mode _____ · Alarms _____
☐	Exercise timer set and running	Generac air-cooled: weekly, biweekly or monthly, about 5 min · Kohler RCA: weekly, 20 min · Cummins: 1 to 20 min, default monthly 5 min · Champion: 15 min, fixed	Day / time _____ · Freq _____
☐	Site: plants, stored items, water	Shrubs and tall grass cleared to 3 ft from the louvers (Generac). Nothing stacked against or built over the enclosure. No sprinkler, roof runoff, downspout or sump discharge aimed at the unit (Generac)	☐ OK ☐ Corrected ☐ Reported
☐	Clearances against the installation manual (NFPA 37: 5 ft from combustible walls and wall openings unless the unit is fire-tested for less)	Generac (SwRI-listed): 18 in back, 5 ft from openings, 3 ft front and ends, 5 ft above · Cummins: 60 in from openings, 18 in one side · Briggs: 18 in, 5 ft from openings · Champion: 17.7 in back, 5 ft from windows · Kohler RCA: 4 ft clear of plants at the exhaust end, intakes 10 ft	Wall _____ · Opening _____ · ☐ OK
☐	Signs and emergency shutdown (2023 NEC jurisdictions)	Sign at the outdoor emergency disconnect showing the generator disconnect or shutdown location (702.7(A)); shutdown device outside the house marked "Generator Emergency Shutdown" (445.19(C))	☐ OK ☐ Missing
☐	Enclosure interior: nests, insects, debris, chewed wiring, corrosion	Base frame, brackets, alternator, fuel system and fasteners free of corrosion (Generac)	☐ Clean ☐ Cleaned ☐ Damage: _____

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	CO alarms in the house	Installed and working on each level of the building near the generator (Kohler prestart check)	☐ Present ☐ Reported
☐	Unit disabled for service	Controller OFF, controller fuse out (Generac 7.5 A), charger power off, negative battery cable off first	☐ Done

2. Engine

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	Oil level and condition before draining	Between the marks. Note sludge, water, fuel smell or a level above full	☐ OK ☐ Low ☐ Contaminated
☐	Oil and filter changed (when due, see Appendix C)	Oil grade and quantity from the manual; level checked on the dipstick after a short run; filter gasket oiled, hand-tight plus the manual's turn	Oil _____ · Qty _____ · ☐ Filter
☐	Air filter	Housing cleaned; element replaced when due or when loaded	☐ OK ☐ Replaced
☐	Spark plugs: condition, gap, torque	Generac 10 to 18 kW 0.020 in, 20 to 26 kW 0.040 in · Kohler RCA 0.030 in · Briggs 0.030 in · Champion 22 kW 0.024 to 0.035 in · Cummins (2025 manual) 0.015 to 0.023 in. Torque per manual (Generac 18.4 ft-lb; Kohler and Cummins 18 to 22 ft-lb)	Gap _____ · ☐ Replaced
☐	Valve clearance, engine cold (engines without hydraulic lifters)	Generac 10 kW and 20 to 26 kW: 0.002 to 0.004 in (not on 14/18 kW Guardian or Next Generation) · Briggs: intake 0.004 to 0.006 in, exhaust 0.007 to 0.008 in	In _____ Ex _____ · ☐ n/a
☐	Breather hose, oil cooler fins, engine and exhaust leaks, exhaust outlet clear of combustibles	Kohler 20/26 kW: oil cooler yearly or 150 h · Briggs: oil cooler fins annually · Kohler: exhaust leaks and obstructions weekly	☐ OK ☐ Issue

3. Fuel system

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	Leak test, supply to regulator, every connection	Non-corrosive leak detection fluid; it must not be blown away or form bubbles (Generac). Never a flame	☐ No leaks ☐ Leak at _____
☐	Flexible fuel line, shutoff valve, sediment trap	Flex line inspected, replaced as necessary (Kohler: quarterly). Sediment trap cleaned per local code (Generac)	☐ OK ☐ Trap cleaned
☐	Fuel pressure at the generator inlet, full load, all gas appliances on	Generac: NG 3.5 to 7.0, LP 10 to 12 in wc · Kohler 14/20 RCA minimum: NG 5 to 11, LP 7 to 11 · Cummins: NG 3.5 to 10, LP 6 to 10, never above 10 · Briggs: NG 3.5 to 7, LP 11 to 14 · Champion: NG 5 to 7, LP 10 to 12	Static _____ · Running _____ in wc
☐	LP tank level and regulator vent	Tank level written down (Kohler: main tank level weekly)	_____ % · ☐ n/a

4. Battery and charger

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	Battery: date code, case, terminals cleaned and tightened, electrolyte level on unsealed batteries	Distilled water only (Generac). Kohler: clean and tighten terminals, electrolyte and specific gravity yearly	Date code ____ · ☐ Cleaned
☐	Battery matches the spec	Generac: Group 26R 540 CCA wet or Group 35 AGM 650 CCA · Cummins: Group 51R, 450 CCA · Briggs: 540 CCA, 800 CCA below 30°F · Champion 22 kW: two 12 V Group 26, 540 CCA	Group ____ · Rated CCA ____
☐	Voltage at rest; load or conductance test	Write the measured CCA next to the rated CCA, and compare with last visit	____ V · ____ CCA
☐	Battery charger output and charge rate	Charger powered and charging (Kohler: monthly). Generac: no external chargers	☐ OK ☐ Fault

5. Enclosure, alternator and wiring

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	Intake and discharge louvers, air ducts, enclosure interior	Clear and clean (Generac before each use when running; Kohler: air ducts yearly, enclosure interior quarterly)	☐ OK ☐ Cleaned
☐	Wiring: abrasion where it moves, control and power connections	Kohler: abrasion every 6 months, connections tightened yearly · Briggs: circuit breaker torques every 100 h or annually	☐ OK ☐ Tightened
☐	Brushes and slip rings (where fitted)	Kohler: brushes and collector ring yearly or 300 h (dealer) · Cummins: clean slip rings at 24 h or 6 months (as printed in Table 13)	☐ OK ☐ Cleaned ☐ n/a
☐	Winding insulation resistance	Kohler: every 3 years (dealer), SCR assembly or rectifier and load leads disconnected	____ MΩ · ☐ Not due

6. Run test, transfer test and return to service

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	Start and run unloaded; check for leaks, noise, vibration, warnings	Starts without cranking faults; no oil, fuel or exhaust leak	☐ OK ☐ Issue
☐	Output voltage and frequency, no load	Against the nameplate (240 V, 60 Hz on single-phase home units) and last visit's reading	L1-L2 ____ V · L1-N ____ · L2-N ____ · ____ Hz
☐	Simulated outage: open the utility disconnect at the transfer switch (not a subpanel breaker)	Generac air-cooled: starts when utility drops below 65% of nominal after a 5 s delay, transfers after the warm-up (5 s; longer under Cold Smart Start) · Cummins: complete system test every 200 h or 2 years	Start ____ s · Transfer ____ s
☐	Under house load: amps per leg, voltage, frequency; load modules shed and restore	Amps under the rated maximum load current on the data label	L1 ____ A · L2 ____ A · ____ V · ____ Hz
☐	Utility restored: retransfer, cool-down, shutdown	Retransfers and runs its cool-down without alarms	☐ OK
☐	Returned to service	AUTO; generator breaker ON; utility ON; exercise set; maintenance reminder reset (Kohler RDC2 maintenance timer, Champion hour meter, Cummins service LED)	☐ AUTO ☐ Breakers ☐ Reset

7. Findings, recommendations and sign-off

Item	Condition found	Recommended action	Price after discount	OK?
				☐
				☐
				☐

Overall: ☐ Ready to run in AUTO ☐ Ready to run, repairs recommended ☐ Not ready, left OFF
(reason: _____)

Technician signature		Customer acknowledgement	
Next service due (date or hours)		Run hours as left	
Readings entered in the agreement record	☐ Yes	Parts used (oil, filters, plugs, battery)	

File this sheet with the customer's maintenance agreement record. Manufacturers ask owners to keep maintenance records for warranty support, and next year's tech compares against these readings.

Appendix A: Liquid-cooled units, add these

Generac Protector gaseous and diesel, Kohler RCL and similar liquid-cooled sets, on top of sections 1 to 6.

✓	Task	Target / what to look for	Reading / result
☐	Coolant level, condition and freeze protection; hoses and clamps	Kohler RCL: condition, protection, hoses and clamps every year before cold weather · Generac: 40 to 60% ethylene glycol (Peak Fleet-Charge 50/50); never propylene glycol; never mix types or brands	Freeze point _____ °F · ☐ Hoses OK
☐	Coolant drained and flushed (when due)	Generac Protector gaseous and diesel: every 2 years or 250 h · Kohler RCL: 1,000 h, or 5,000 h or 5 years with long-life coolant	☐ Done ☐ Not due
☐	Radiator exterior and air path	Clear of debris (Kohler RCL: every 100 h; Generac: daily while running)	☐ OK ☐ Cleaned
☐	Belt condition and tension	Generac: every year or 125 h · Kohler RCL: every 1,000 h	☐ OK ☐ Adjusted ☐ Replaced
☐	Oil and filter (when due)	Generac Protector 4.5 L: after 25 h, then every year or 125 h · Kohler RCL: every 150 h, 10W-30 above 0°F, 5W-30 below · Generac diesel: after 30 h, then every 2 years or 250 h	Oil _____ · Qty _____
☐	Spark plugs (gaseous) or fuel filter and water drain (diesel)	Generac 4.5 L plugs: every 2 years or 250 h · Kohler RCL plugs: 400 h and 1,500 h · Generac diesel: drain fuel filter daily while running, replace element every 2 years or 250 h	☐ Done ☐ Not due
☐	Block heater and battery heater working (cold climates)	Warm to the touch with the unit at rest	☐ OK ☐ n/a
☐	Long-interval items	Generac: tighten critical fasteners every 1,000 h; diesel valve clearance, injection valve pressure and pump timing every 1,000 h · Kohler RCL: fuel system, regulator pressure, exhaust and wiring every 2,000 h	Hours _____ · ☐ Not due
☐	Exercise set	Generac Protector: weekly, about 12 min · Kohler RCL: weekly or every other week, 20 min	☐ Set

Appendix B: Emergency and legally required systems (NFPA 110)

For systems under NEC Article 700 or 701 and NFPA 110 Chapter 8 (2025 edition section numbers; health care surveys use the 2010 edition). Home standby systems under NEC Article 702 are not covered by NFPA 110. The authority having jurisdiction sets the final schedule.

✓	Task	Requirement	Reading / result
☐	System level, class and the written schedule on site	Level 1: failure could cost lives or cause serious injury · Level 2: less critical (4.4.1, 4.4.2) · written maintenance and test schedule (8.3.3)	☐ Level 1 ☐ Level 2 · Class _____
☐	Inspection log reviewed since last visit	Level 1 inspected weekly; Level 2 visually inspected at least monthly; automated monitoring may substitute for the weekly inspection (8.4.1, 8.4.10)	☐ Complete ☐ Gaps: _____
☐	Monthly exercise under load	At least 30 min (8.4.2). Diesel: manufacturer's minimum exhaust gas temperature or at least 30% of standby nameplate kW. Spark-ignited: available EPSS load (8.4.2.1)	_____ % load · _____ min · Exhaust _____ °F
☐	Annual load bank (diesel sets that miss the monthly load)	At least 50% of nameplate kW for 30 continuous min, then at least 75% for 1 continuous hour; 1.5 h total (8.4.2.4)	☐ Done _____ ☐ Not required
☐	Transfer switches	Operated monthly, primary to alternate and back (8.4.6); test started from the ATS test switch or by opening a normal breaker, rotating ATSs (8.4.3); maintenance: connections, overheating and contact erosion, dust and dirt, contacts (8.3.4)	☐ OK ☐ Issue _____
☐	Time delays	Start at least 1 s; restoration to normal at least 5 min; shutdown at least 5 min (8.4.5)	Start _____ · Retransfer _____ · Cool-down _____
☐	Starting batteries	Level 1 inspected weekly, Level 2 monthly (8.3.6). Maintainable: specific gravity recorded monthly. Sealed: conductance, ohmic, carbon pile load or cranking voltage drop test monthly. Defective batteries replaced immediately	SG / test _____ · ☐ Replaced
☐	Fuel quality test	At least annually, ASTM standards or the manufacturer's recommendations (8.3.7)	Date _____ · ☐ Pass
☐	Level 1 circuit breakers	Main and feed breakers between the EPS and the transfer switch load terminals exercised annually with the EPS off (8.4.7)	☐ Done ☐ n/a
☐	Level 1 36-month test	At least once every 36 months, for the class duration; may end after 4 continuous hours (8.4.9)	Last _____ · Next _____
☐	Records	Every inspection, test, exercise, repair and modification: date, servicing personnel, unsatisfactory conditions and corrective action including parts, retest; available to the AHJ on request (8.5)	☐ Entered

Appendix C: Interval and spec reference by manufacturer

From the manuals listed on usedeepsel.com/generator-maintenance-checklist (Generac Guardian 10 to 26 kW owner's manual A0001846499 Rev. C; Kohler TP-7092 and TP-7093; Cummins A062J680 Issue 7, 2025; Briggs & Stratton 80106286 Rev. C; Champion 22 kW model 100304). Service is due at the hours or the calendar interval, whichever comes first.

Item	Generac Guardian 10 to 26 kW	Kohler 14/20/26 RCA	Cummins Quiet Connect	Briggs & Stratton 17 to 26 kW	Champion 22 kW
Break-in oil change	25 h	Not on schedule	25 h and 100 h	Not on schedule	5 h
Oil and filter	2 years or 200 h; 1 year or 100 h below 40°F or continuous above 85°F	14 kW: oil 1 year or 100 h, filter 1 year or 200 h · 20/26 kW: 1 year or 150 h · 26 kW extended-life oil: 2 years or 300 h	200 h or 2 years	100 h or annually	2 years or 100 h
Oil type · capacity	SJ/SL or better; Generac 5W-20 after break-in · 1.1 / 2.2 / 1.9 qt (10 / 14–18 / 20–26 kW)	5W-30 or 10W-30 synthetic · 1.9 qt (14 kW), 2.0 qt (20/26 kW)	Full synthetic SN, 5W-30 (0W-30 below 0°F) · 2.4 qt	5W-30 full synthetic · 78–80 oz	0W-40 full synthetic · 2.0 qt
Air filter	4 years or 400 h	Check 150 h, change 300 h or yearly	200 h or 2 years	100 h or annually	Inspect 2 years or 100 h
Spark plugs · gap	4 years or 400 h · 0.020 in (10–18 kW), 0.040 in (20–26 kW)	300 h or yearly · 0.030 in	No interval listed · 0.015–0.023 in	100 h or annually · 0.030 in	Inspect 2 years or 100 h · 0.024–0.035 in
Valve clearance	25 h, then 4 years or 400 h · 0.002–0.004 in · none on 14/18 kW Guardian or Next Generation	Not on schedule	25 h, 100 h, then 200 h (authorized tech)	Every 100 h · intake 0.004–0.006, exhaust 0.007–0.008 in	2 years or 100 h (dealer)
Battery	Check 2 years or 200 h · 26R 540 CCA or 35 AGM 650 CCA	Charger monthly; terminals, electrolyte yearly	Every 200 h · 51R 450 CCA	540 CCA; 800 CCA below 30°F	Terminals monthly · two Group 26, 540 CCA, 24 V
Fuel pressure, in wc	NG 3.5–7.0 · LP 10–12	Minimum NG 5–11 · LP 7–11 (14/20 kW)	NG 3.5–10 · LP 6–10 · max 10	NG 3.5–7 · LP 11–14, full load	NG 5–7 · LP 10–12, full load
Exercise	Weekly, biweekly or monthly · about 5 min	Weekly · 20 min	1–20 min · default monthly, 5 min	Set at controller	15 min, fixed
Oil check while running	Every 24 h, 30-minute shutdown	Every 8 h (14/20 kW), 24 h (26 kW)	Every 24 h	Every 8 h or daily	Every 24 h

Keep this sheet with the equipment record. The readings in sections 1 to 6 are the baseline the next visit compares against. The matching maintenance agreement templates and a free visit-tracking sheet are at usedeepsel.com.