



# Operator Manual

Cummins **Onan**

Performance you rely on.™



## Portable Generator Set

EGMBB, P2220c  
EGMBB, P2400  
EGMBG, P2927  
EGMBG, P2927c  
EGMBG, P3027  
EGMBG, P3500

**! WARNING !**

Do not use this genset on a boat  
Such use may violate U. S. Coast Guard  
regulations and can result in  
severe personal injury or death from  
fire, electrocution, or  
carbon monoxide poisoning

F-1280

**! WARNING: !**

The engine exhaust from this product  
contains chemicals known to the State  
of California to cause cancer, birth  
defects or other reproductive harm.

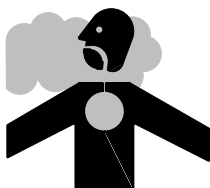
**! WARNING**



Gasoline and its vapor are flammable and explosive.

- Keep gasoline away from heat, sparks, and flame sources.
- Stop and cool unit 15 minutes before refueling.
- Refuel carefully and only outdoors on level ground.
- Fuel can leak from fuel cap vent.
  - ◇ Do not overfill.
  - ◇ Do not tip unit more than 15° (6.9 inches).
  - ◇ Cool unit and drain fuel before transporting.
- Wipe up fuel leaks immediately.

**! WARNING**



Generator exhaust contains poisonous CO (carbon monoxide) that can cause serious injury or death.

- You cannot see, taste or smell CO.
- Operate only outdoors with exhaust directed away from people and building air intakes.
- Never operate generator inside any enclosed or semi-enclosed area. A hazardous CO level can occur even with open doors and ventilation fans.

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# 1 Safety Precautions

Thoroughly read the Operator Manual before operating the generator set. Safe operation and top performance can only be obtained when equipment is operated and maintained properly.

The following symbols, found throughout this manual, alert you to potentially dangerous conditions to operators, service personnel, and the equipment.



**DANGER:** This symbol alerts you to an immediate hazard that will result in severe personal injury or death.





**WARNING:** This symbol alerts you to a hazard or unsafe practice that can result in severe personal injury or death.



**CAUTION:** This symbol alerts you to a hazard or unsafe practice that can result in personal injury or damage to equipment or property.

## 1.1 Exhaust Gas Is Deadly

- Operate the generator set outdoors only. Stay away from the exhaust outlet.
- Make sure generator set exhaust will not enter windows, doors, vents, or air intakes of adjacent buildings, vehicles, or boats.
- NEVER USE THE GENERATOR SET INSIDE a home, garage, crawl space, barn, shed, cabin, boat, boat house, RV, or tent; or in a confined outdoor space such as an alley, ditch, parking garage, or courtyard; or in any other space where exhaust can accumulate. Note that HAZARDOUS CARBON MONOXIDE LEVELS FROM ENGINE EXHAUST CAN ACCUMULATE INDOORS, EVEN WHEN ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS ARE OPEN AND FANS ARE RUNNING.
- Even when you use a generator set correctly, CO may leak into the home. ALWAYS use a battery-powered or battery-backup CO alarm in the home.
- If you feel sick, dizzy, or weak after the generator set has been running, move to fresh air RIGHT AWAY. See a doctor. You could have carbon monoxide poisoning.

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	<p>Generator exhaust contains poisonous CO (carbon monoxide) that can cause serious injury or death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You cannot see, taste or smell CO.</li><li>▪ Operate only outdoors with exhaust directed away from people and building air intakes.</li><li>▪ Never operate generator inside any enclosed or semi-enclosed area. A hazardous CO level can occur even with open doors and ventilation fans.</li></ul>

## 1.2 Gasoline is Flammable / Explosive

- Refuel the generator set outdoors only.

- Static electric sparks caused by fuel flowing through a service station pump nozzle can ignite gasoline. Never fill the generator set with a service station pump nozzle. Instead, fill a safety tank sitting on the ground and then slowly transfer fuel to the generator set from the safety tank.
- DO NOT fill fuel tanks while the engine is running. A hot engine can ignite the fuel.
- To prevent fire due to fuel leakage, always close the fuel valve and let the generator set cool before transporting it or storing it in a confined space.
- DO NOT SMOKE OR ALLOW AN OPEN FLAME near the generator set. Keep flames, sparks, electrical switches, pilot lights, electrical arcs, arc-producing equipment, and all other sources of ignition well away.

### **1.3 Generator Voltage is Deadly**

- DO NOT CONNECT THE GENERATOR SET DIRECTLY TO ANY BUILDING ELECTRICAL SYSTEM. Back-feed could cause electrocution of utility line workers and could damage equipment. An approved switching device must be used to prevent interconnections. A trained and experienced electrician must make electrical connections when the generator set is used for emergency power.
- Make sure clothing, shoes, and skin are dry when handling electrical equipment.
- Never operate the generator set in rain or snow or when it is sitting on wet ground.

### **1.4 Moving Parts Can Cause Severe Personal Injury or Death**

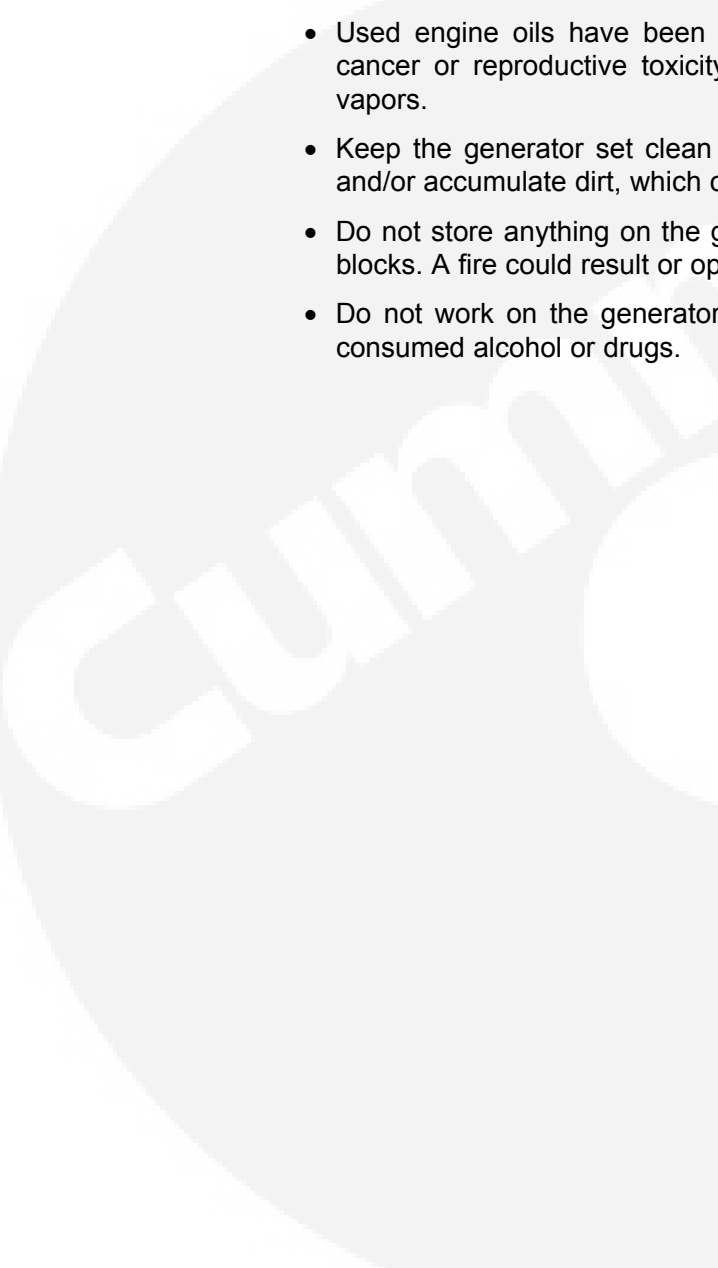

- Before performing any maintenance on the generator set, disconnect the spark plug wire.
- Always keep hands away from moving parts.
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry while servicing the generator set. Loose clothing and jewelry can become caught in moving parts. Jewelry can short out electrical contacts causing sparks, flame, and electrical shock.
- Make sure that fasteners and clamps on the generator set are tight. Keep guards in position over fans, rotors, etc.

### **1.5 Battery Gases Are Explosive**

- Wear safety glasses when servicing batteries.
- Do not smoke.
- To reduce arcing when disconnecting or reconnecting battery cables, always disconnect the negative (–) cable of the battery first and reconnect it last.

### **1.6 General Precautions**

- Keep children away from the generator set.
- Wear hearing protection when near an operating generator set.

- Keep a multi-class ABC fire extinguisher readily at hand. Class A fires involve ordinary combustible materials, such as wood and cloth. Class B fires involve combustible and flammable liquids and gaseous fuels. Class C fires involve live electrical equipment. (ref. NFPA No. 10).
  - Benzene and lead may be found in gasoline and have been identified by some state and federal agencies as causing cancer or reproductive toxicity. Do not ingest, inhale, or contact gasoline.
  - Used engine oils have been identified by some state and federal agencies as causing cancer or reproductive toxicity. Do not ingest, inhale, or contact used engine oil or its vapors.
  - Keep the generator set clean and dry at all times. Excess grease and oil can catch fire and/or accumulate dirt, which can cause overheating.
  - Do not store anything on the generator set, such as oil cans, oily rags, chains or wooden blocks. A fire could result or operation could be adversely affected.
  - Do not work on the generator set when you are mentally or physically fatigued or have consumed alcohol or drugs.
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## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 About This Manual

This manual covers the generator sets listed on the front cover. Study this manual and observe all of its warnings and precautions. Using and maintaining the generator set properly will result in longer generator set life, better performance, and safer operation.

### 2.2 Model Identification

Be ready to provide the generator set model and serial numbers on the generator set nameplate when contacting Cummins Onan for parts, service, or product information. The nameplate and its location on the generator set is illustrated in the Figures below.



**WARNING:** *Many troubleshooting procedures or replacement of parts present hazards that can result in equipment damage and severe personal injury or death. Only trained and experienced service personnel with knowledge of fuels, electricity, and machinery hazards should perform service procedures. Review the Safety Precautions section of this manual.*

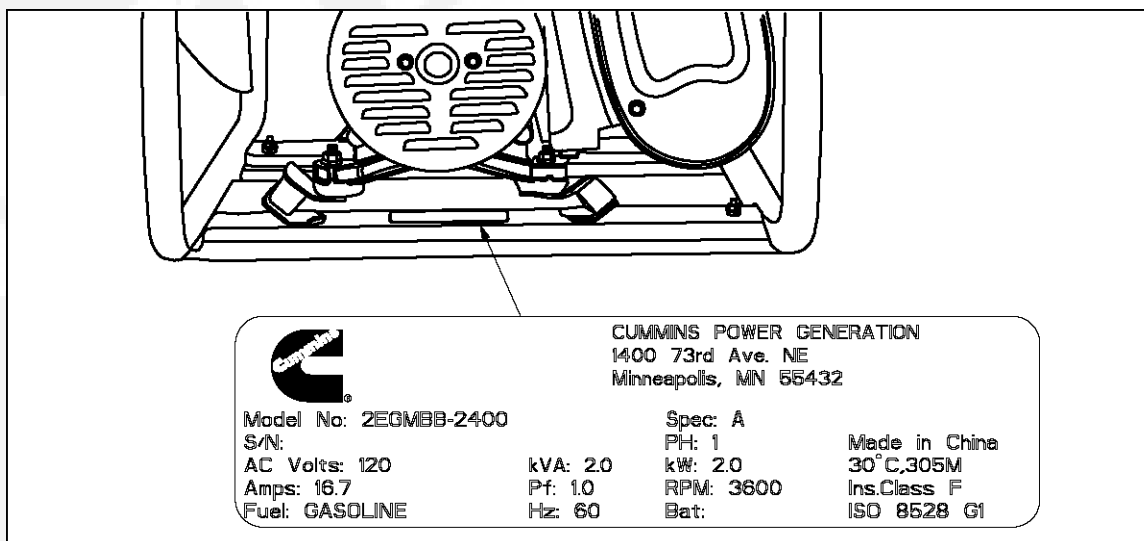


FIGURE 1. NAMEPLATE LOCATION FOR P2220C, P2927, P2927C, AND P3027 GENERATOR SETS

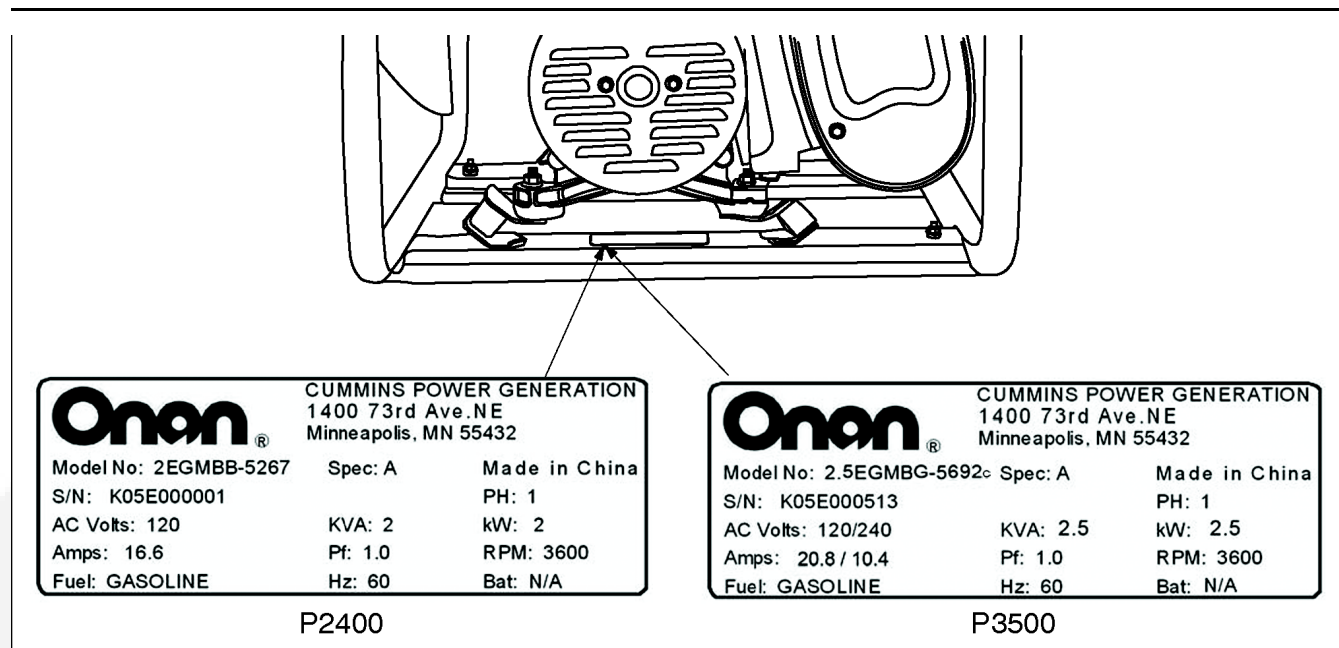
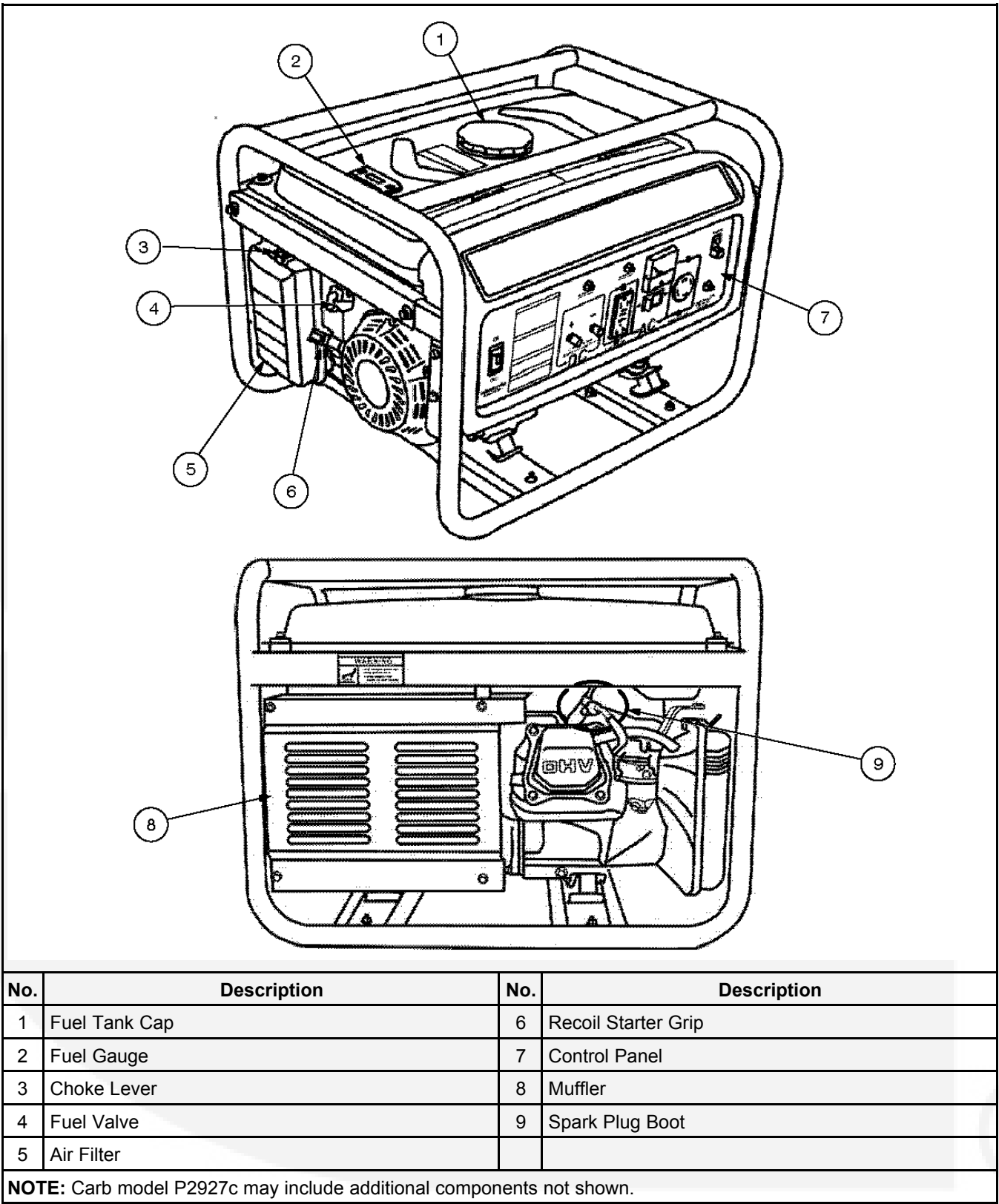
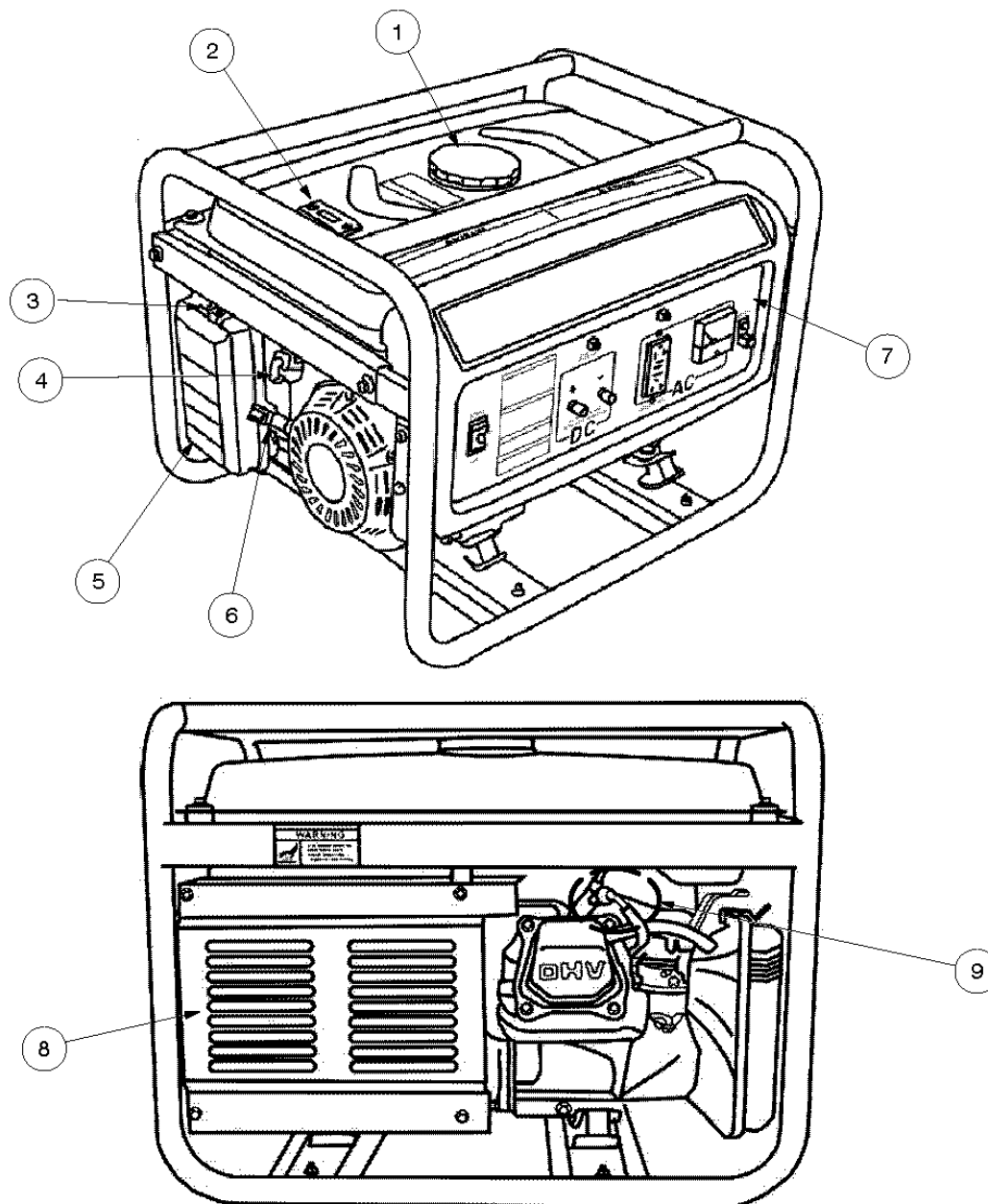


FIGURE 2. NAMEPLATE LOCATION FOR P2400 AND P3500



**FIGURE 3. EGMBG COMPONENT LOCATIONS (P2927, P2927C, P3027, AND P3500)**



No.	Description	No.	Description
1	Fuel Tank Cap	6	Recoil Starter Grip
2	Fuel Valve	7	Control Panel
3	Choke Lever	8	Muffler
4	Fuel Valve	9	Spark Plug Boot
5	Air Filter		

**NOTE:** Carb model P2220c may include additional components not shown.

**FIGURE 4. EGMBB COMPONENT LOCATIONS (P2220C AND P2400)**

## 2.3 How to Obtain Service

When calling for service, parts, or product literature (such as the Service Manual or Parts Catalog) for your generator set, contact the nearest authorized Cummins Onan distributor. Cummins Onan has factory-trained representatives to handle your requests for generator set parts and service. For information on contacting Cummins Onan distributors worldwide, go to the internet site [www.cumminsonan.com](http://www.cumminsonan.com).

### 2.3.1 In North America

Call 1-800-888-ONAN to contact the nearest Cummins Onan distributor in the United States or Canada. This automated service is for touch-tone phones only. Select OPTION 1 (press 1) to be automatically connected to the distributor nearest to you.

If you are unable to contact a distributor using the automated service, consult the Yellow Pages. Typically our distributors are listed under:

- GENERATORS - ELECTRIC
- ENGINES - GASOLINE OR DIESEL, or
- RECREATIONAL VEHICLES - EQUIPMENT, PARTS, AND SERVICE

If you have difficulty in arranging for service or resolving a problem, contact the Service Manager at the nearest Cummins Onan distributor for assistance.

### 2.3.2 Outside North America

If you are outside North America, call Cummins Onan at 1-763-574-5000 from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday, or fax 1-763-528-7229.

### 2.3.3 Information to Have Ready

Before calling for service, have the following information available:

1. The complete generator set model number and series number. Refer to the "Model Identification" section of this manual.
2. The date of purchase.
3. The nature of the problem. Refer to the "Troubleshooting" section of this manual.

## 2.4 Wheel Kit

The assembled wheel kit shown below is optional equipment on P2220c, P2400, P2927, P2927c, P3027, and P3500 models. A wheel kit (0541-1340) can be purchased as an accessory.



FIGURE 5. WHEEL KIT INSTALLED

## 2.5 Fuel Requirements

Use clean, fresh unleaded gasoline with an octane rating (anti-knock index) of 87 or higher.

During part of the year, only mandated "oxygenated" gasoline may be available. While "oxygenated" gasoline is acceptable for use, it is not preferable. Using leaded gasoline will result in extra maintenance to remove combustion chamber and spark plug deposits. Do not use starting fluids and do not use gasoline or gasoline additives (de-icers) containing methanol. Methanol is corrosive to fuel system components.



**WARNING:** *Evaporative starting fluids, such as ether, are highly explosive which can result in severe personal injury or death. Do not use starting fluids.*



**CAUTION:** *Methanol is corrosive to fuel system components. Do not use gasoline or gasoline additives containing methanol.*



**CAUTION:** *Avoid using leaded gasoline because of the extra engine maintenance that will be required.*



**WARNING:** *Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive which can result in severe personal injury or death. Do not smoke if you smell gasoline or are near fuel tanks or gasoline-burning equipment, or are in the area sharing ventilations with such equipment. Keep flames, sparks, electrical switches, pilot lights, arc-producing equipment, and all other sources of ignition well away from the area.*

## 2.6 Generator Set Assembly Instructions

1. Remove the generator set from the box.



**WARNING:** *The generator set is heavy. Dropping the generator set can cause severe personal injury or death. Keep feet and hands clear when lifting the generator set.*

2. If necessary, install the wheel kit (see the "Wheel Kit Assembly Instructions" below).
3. Add oil to the generator set (see "Engine Oil Recommendations" on the following page).



**CAUTION:** *Too little oil can cause severe engine damage. Make sure that the oil level is above the Add mark on the dipstick.*

4. Add gasoline to the fuel tank (see "Fuel Requirements" on the previous page).



**CAUTION:** *Methanol is corrosive to fuel system components. Do not use gasoline or gasoline additives containing methanol.*



**CAUTION:** *The use of leaded gasoline will require extra maintenance. Avoid using leaded gasoline.*

## 2.7 Wheel Kit Assembly Instructions



**CAUTION:** *Improper handling of the generator set can result in equipment damage. Do not turn the generator set on the side, top, or end. Doing so may damage the generator set or cause dangerous fuel or oil leakage. Do not place items on top of the generator set. The wheel kit is designed to support the generator only.*

### Required Tools

- 10 and 12 mm wrenches, sockets, and ratchet
- Three 6-inch high blocks of wood
- Pliers

### Installation Procedure

1. Install the handle assembly (handle, bracket, hinge pin, grips, end plugs, two cotter pins, and fasteners).
  - a. Use two long bolts to attach the handle assembly to the frame.
  - b. Tighten securely; do not crush the frame tube.
2. Block up the generator set under both frame tubes as shown below. Place a block under the center of the cross-member on the exhaust end.
3. Install the leg assembly.
  - a. Install a leg assembly (support leg, rubber pad, and fastener) onto each side of the exhaust end cross-member.
  - b. Use two bolts and nuts for each leg and tighten securely.
4. Install the wheel and axle assembly (axle assembly and wheel assemblies).
  - a. Remove the rubber pads secured to the frame where the axle is attached.

- b. Remove the cotter pins and loose washers from the axle assembly (axle, two loose washers, two cotter pins, and fasteners).
- c. Install the wheels (flat free tire and wheel); make sure the long hub is to the inside.
- d. Reinstall the washers and cotter pins on the axle assembly. Bend one leg of each cotter pin.
- e. Place the axle assembly under the cross member as shown and install four bolts and nuts. Tighten securely.

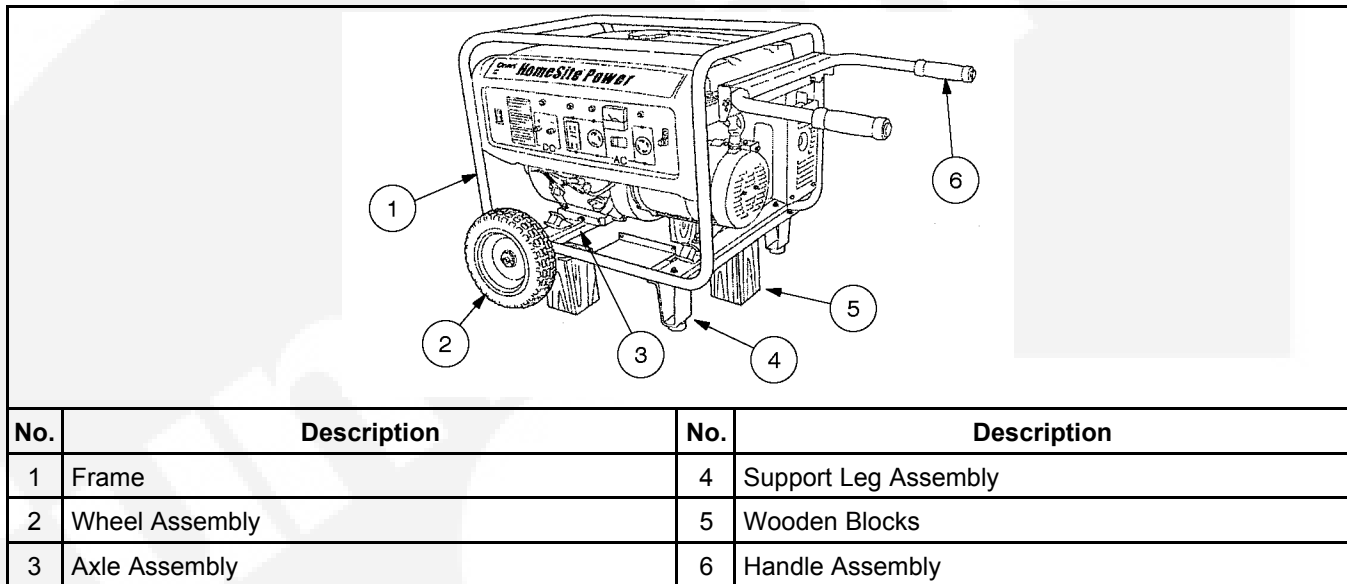


FIGURE 6. INSTALLED WHEEL KIT

## 2.8 Engine Oil Recommendations

Use American Petroleum Institute (API) performance class SL or SJ engine oil or better. Also look for Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) viscosity grade oil (see the table below). Choose the viscosity grade appropriate for the ambient temperature expected until the next scheduled oil change. Refer to the "Specifications" section for engine oil capacity.

Single-grade SAE 30 oil is best when temperatures are consistently above freezing. Multi-grade oils are better when wide temperature variations are expected.

TABLE 1. OIL VISCOSITY VS. TEMPERATURE

Expected Ambient Temperatures	SAE Viscosity Grade
30° F (0 C) and higher	30
10° F to 100° F (-12° C to 38° C)	15W-40
0° F to 80° F (-18° C to 27° C)	10W-30 10W-40
-20° F to 50° F (-28° to 10° C)	5W-30

# 3 Starting and Running the Generator Set

## 3.1 Control Panel

The control panels for the models covered in this manual are illustrated below. The control switches, meters, output receptacles, and circuit breaker reset buttons are grouped for convenient operation.

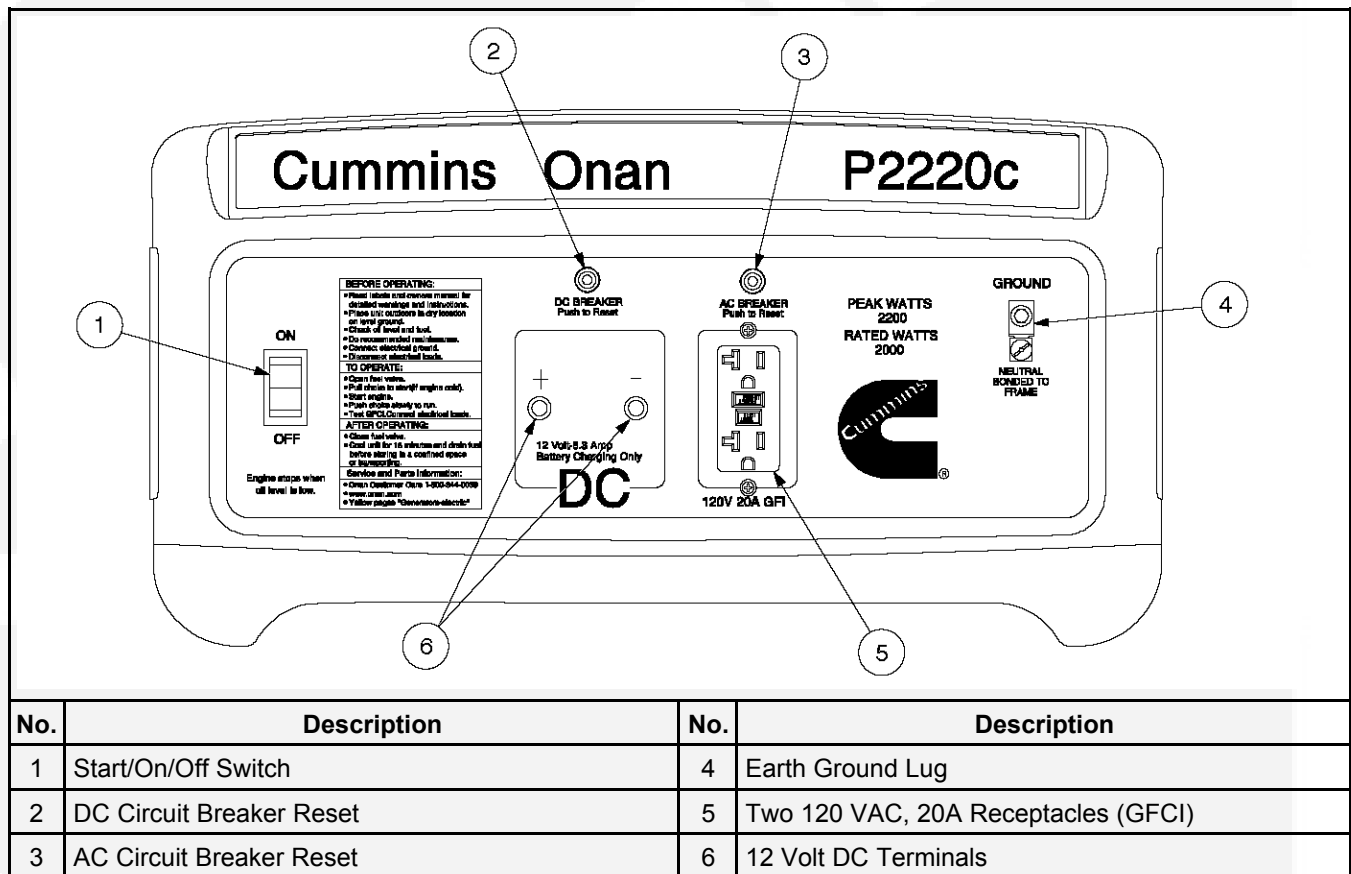


FIGURE 7. P2220C CONTROL PANEL

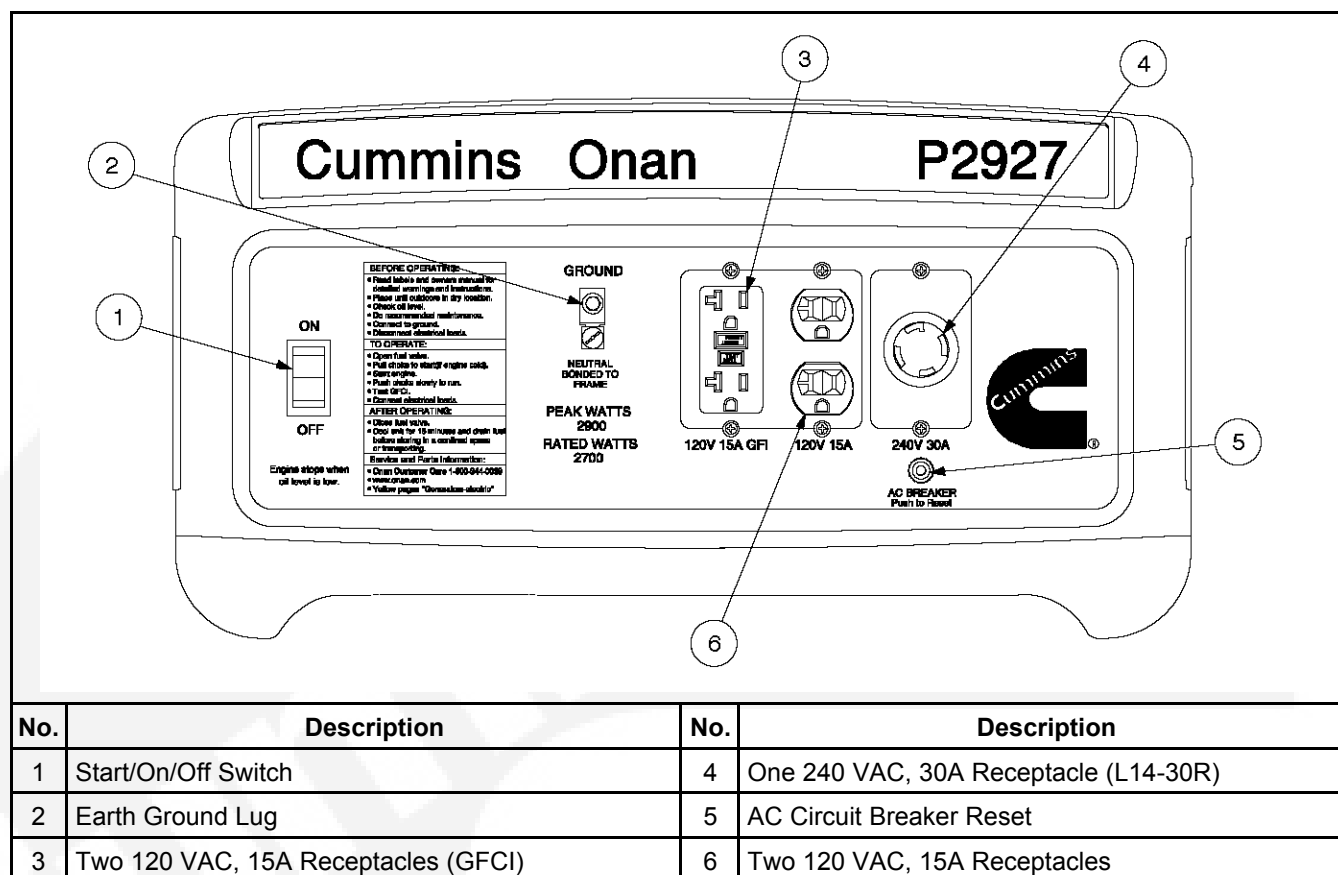


FIGURE 8. P2927 CONTROL PANEL

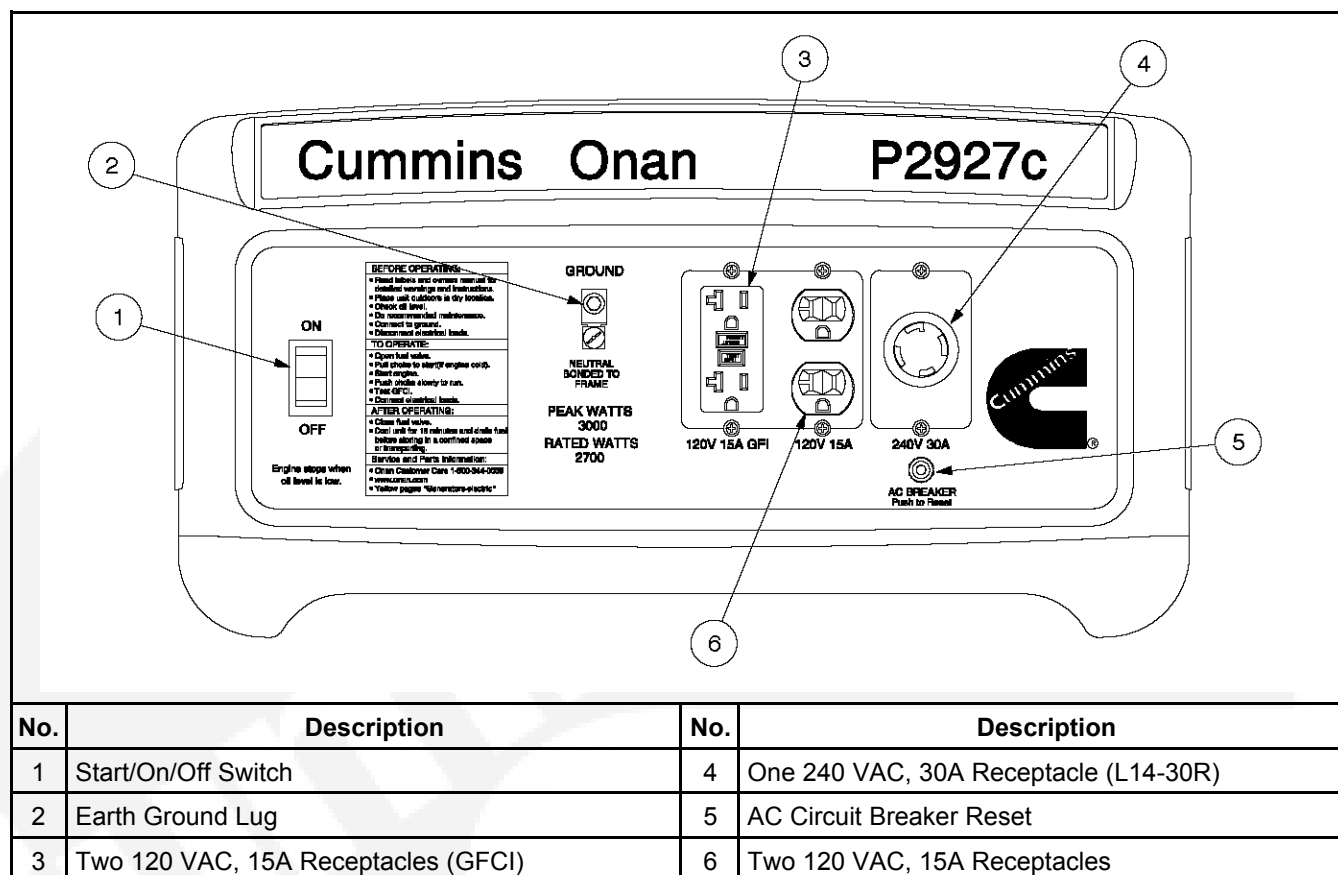


FIGURE 9. P2927C CONTROL PANEL

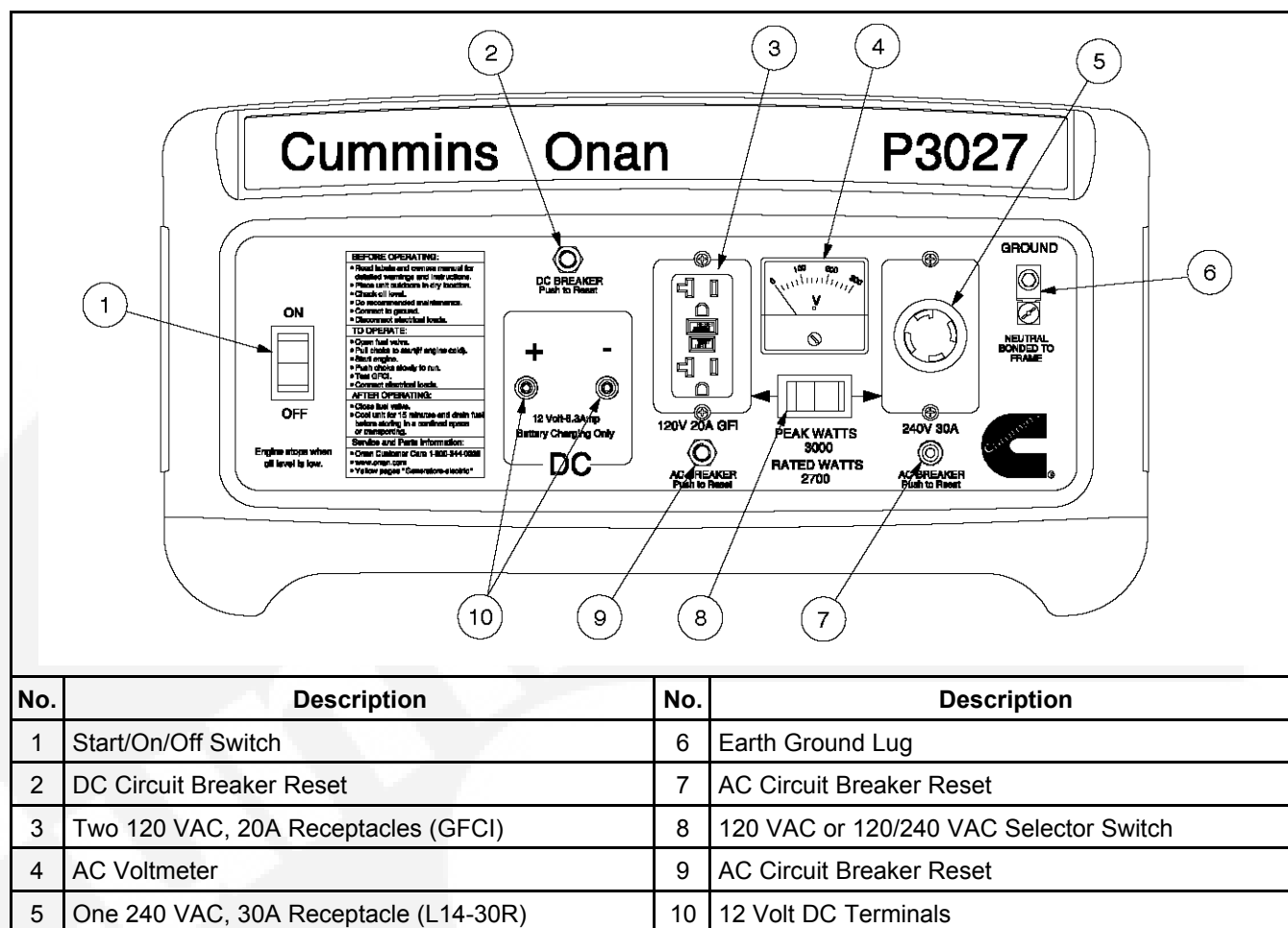


FIGURE 10. P3027 CONTROL PANEL

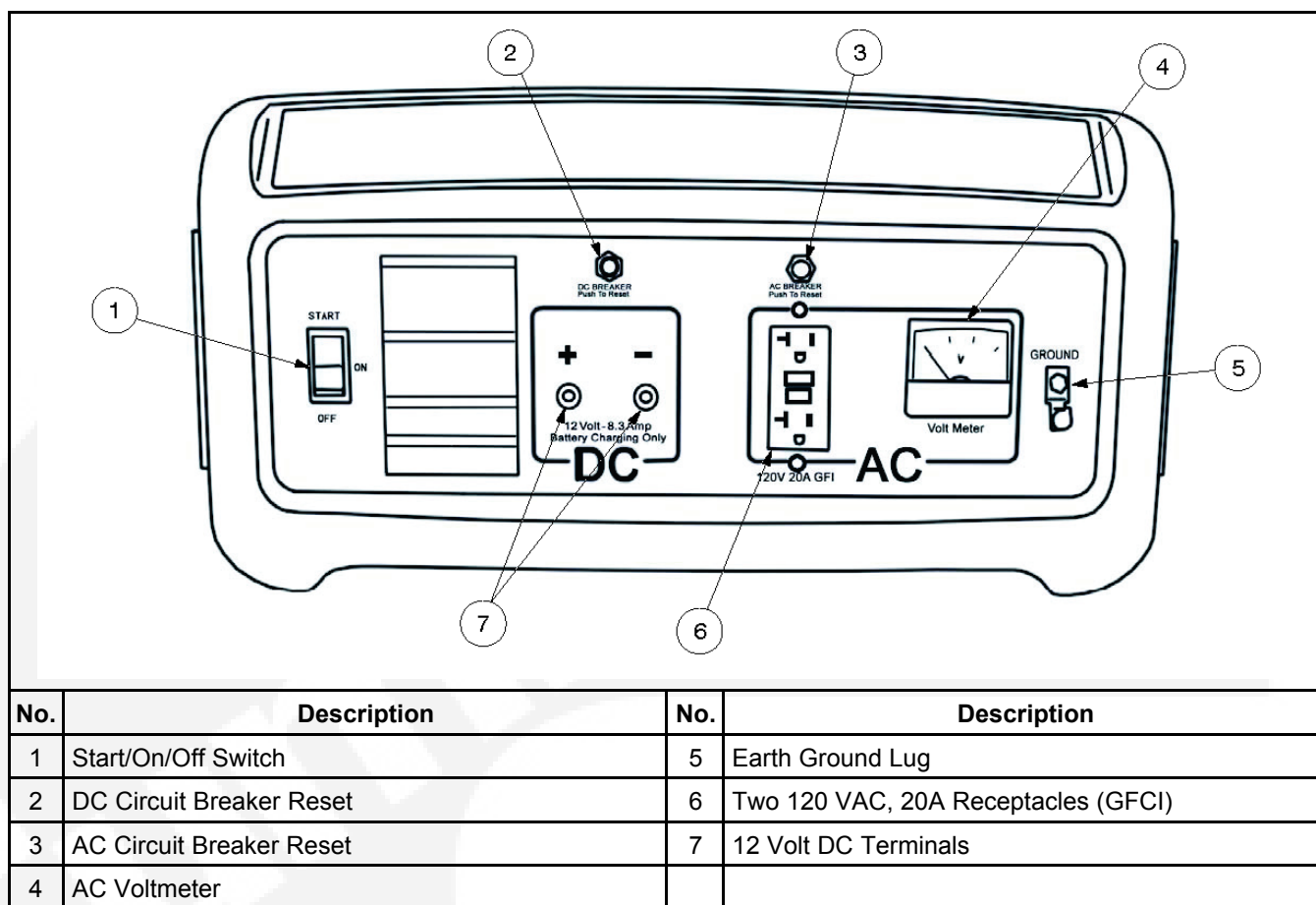


FIGURE 11. P2400 CONTROL PANEL

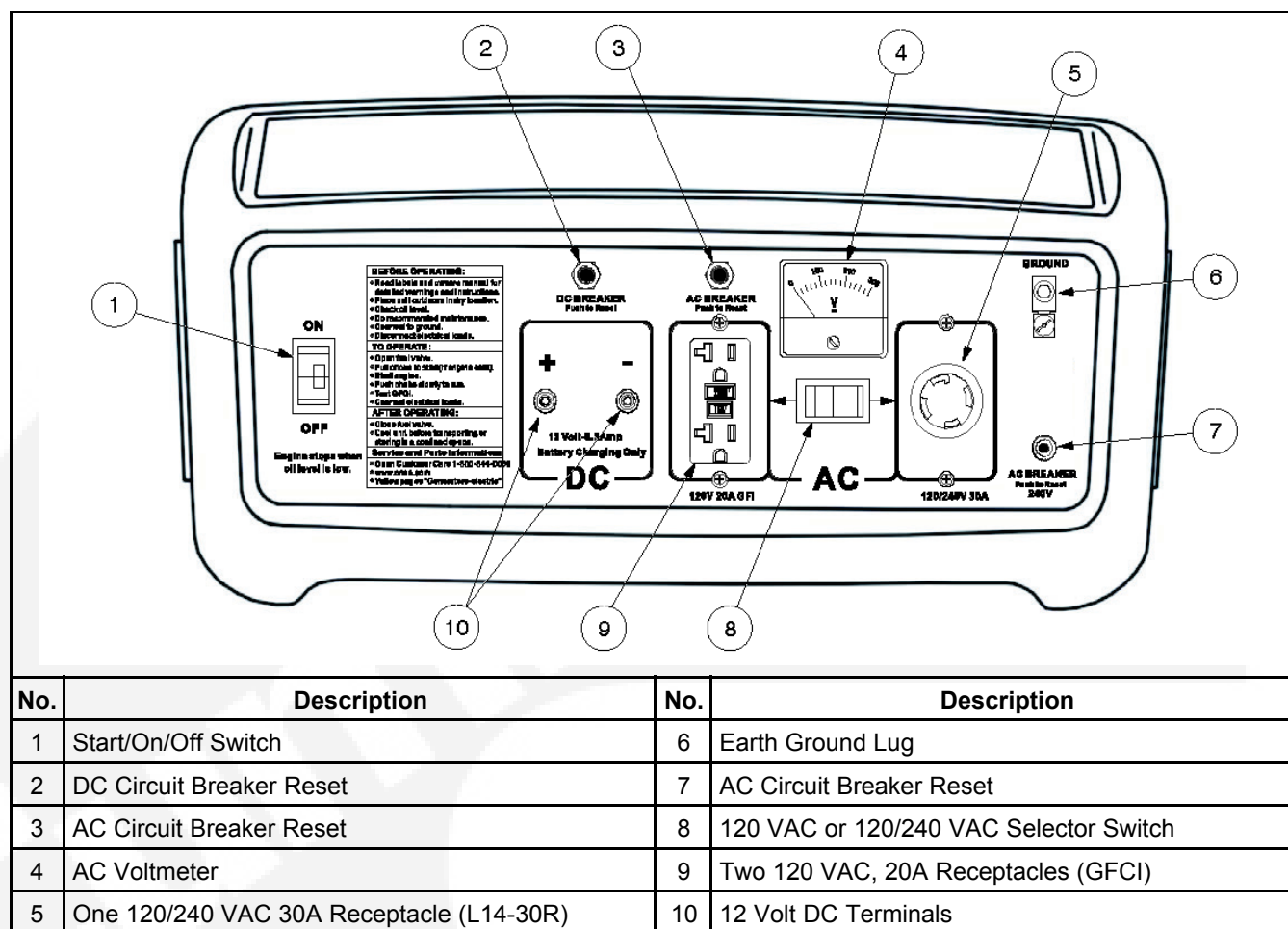


FIGURE 12. P3500 CONTROL PANEL

## 3.2 Pre-Start Checks



**DANGER: EXHAUST GAS IS DEADLY! THE INDOOR USE OF A GENERATOR SET CAN KILL QUICKLY.**

Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless gas. Carbon monoxide is poisonous and can cause unconsciousness, severe personal injury, and death. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include:

- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Headache
- Weakness and sleepiness
- Throbbing in temples
- Muscular twitching
- Vomiting
- Inability to think coherently

**IF YOU OR ANYONE ELSE EXPERIENCE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS, GET INTO FRESH AIR IMMEDIATELY. Then:**

- **Seek immediate advice from poison control, medical center, or 911. Be aware that:**
- **CO symptoms can be mistaken for flu, dehydration, food poisoning, or other illness.**
- **Injury or death can occur later when in fresh air and apparently recovering.**
- **Call the fire department to determine when it is safe to re-enter the area.**



**Operate the generator set OUTDOORS only. Stay away from and upwind of the exhaust outlet.**

**Make sure the exhaust will not enter windows, doors, vents, or air intakes of adjacent buildings, vehicles, or boats.**

**Never use the generator set inside a home, garage, crawl space, barn, shed, cabin, boat, boat house, RV, or tent; or in a confined outdoor space such as an alley, ditch, parking garage, or courtyard; or in any other space where exhaust can accumulate. Hazardous carbon monoxide levels from generator set exhaust can accumulate indoors even when windows and doors are open and fans are running.**

**Even when you use a generator set correctly, CO may leak into the home. ALWAYS use a battery-powered or battery-backup CO alarm in the home.**

**If you feel sick, dizzy, or weak after the generator set has been running, move to fresh air RIGHT AWAY. See a doctor. You could have carbon monoxide poisoning.**

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	<p><b>Generator exhaust contains poisonous CO (carbon monoxide) that can cause serious injury or death.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You cannot see, taste or smell CO.</li> <li>▪ Operate only outdoors with exhaust directed away from people and building air intakes.</li> <li>▪ Never operate generator inside any enclosed or semi-enclosed area. A hazardous CO level can occur even with open doors and ventilation fans.</li> </ul>

Before the first start of the day and after every eight hours of operation, perform GENERAL INSPECTIONS and any scheduled maintenance due, as indicated in the "Periodic Maintenance Schedule." If the generator set has been in storage, return it to service as instructed in the "Out-of-Service Protection" section.



**WARNING: Moving parts can cause severe personal injury or death. Hot exhaust parts can cause severe burns. Make sure all protective guards are properly in place before starting the generator set.**



**WARNING: A non-functioning GFCI, or a damaged or overloaded extension cord, can cause electrocution or fire. Test the GFCI for proper operation. Make sure all extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use, have the proper plugs, and have the proper amp and voltage ratings.**



**WARNING: Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive and can be ignited by static electric sparks caused by fuel flowing through a service station pump nozzle which can result in severe personal injury or death. Never fill the generator set with a service station pump nozzle. Instead, fill a safety tank sitting on the ground and then slowly transfer fuel to the generator set from the safety tank.**

1. Locate the generator set outdoors in a dry, level place and chock the wheels, if so equipped.
2. Check fuel and oil levels, and fill as necessary.



**WARNING:** *If the generator neutral supply is not grounded to earth, the user may be left without ground fault protection, which could result in serious personal injury or death. Always make sure the generator neutral supply is grounded to earth before operating the generator set.*

3. Connect the grounding lug to earth ground in accordance with the local electrical code.
4. Test the GFCI for proper operation.
5. Make sure that all extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use and have the proper amp and voltage ratings, and that they are equipped with proper plugs having grounding blades.
6. Make sure all tools and appliances have been turned off or are disconnected.

### 3.3 Starting the Generator Set

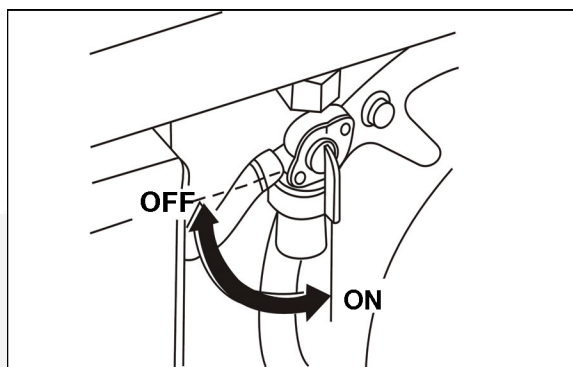
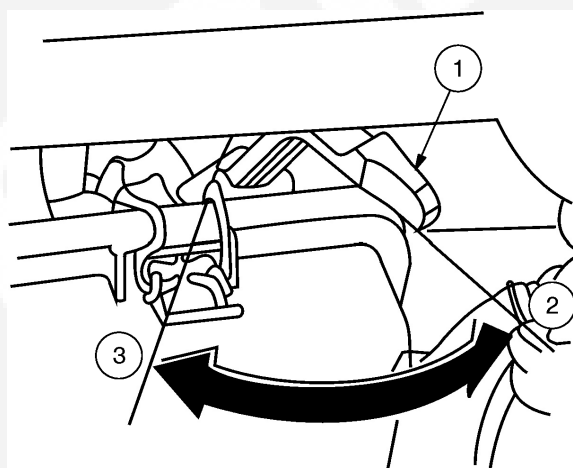


**WARNING:** *Operating a generator set in an inappropriate environment can result in a fire which can result in severe personal injury or death. Do not operate the generator set in hazardous environments where it could ignite flammable gasses or combustible materials. To avoid the risk of electrocution, never operate the generator set in rain or snow or when it is sitting on wet ground. Be careful not to touch or allow any combustible materials to touch the muffler which can get very hot.*

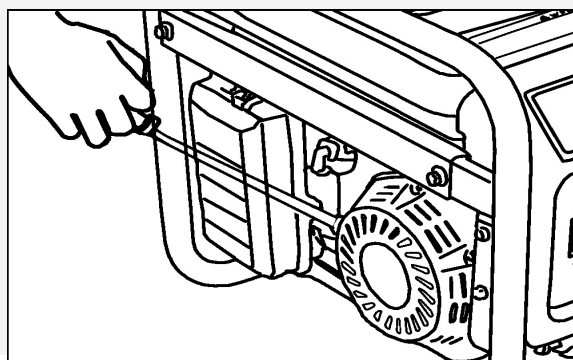


**CAUTION:** *The voltage surge at startup can damage appliances such as TVs, microwave ovens, computers, etc. Be sure to disconnect all appliances before starting the generator set.*

1. Open the fuel valve (see [Figure 13](#)).
2. Pull the choke rod out to close the choke if the engine is cold (see [Figure 14](#)).
3. Verify that the On/Off switch is in the ON position.
4. With one hand on the generator, grip the recoil handle with the other hand and pull it out quickly and smoothly. Repeat as necessary until the engine starts (see [Figure 15](#)).
5. As the engine warms up, gradually push the choke rod in.
6. Let the engine warm up for a few minutes before connecting tools or appliances. See "Power Tools and Appliances."

**FIGURE 13. FUEL VALVE**

No.	Description	No.	Description
1	Choke Lever	3	Closed
2	Open		

**FIGURE 14. CHOKE ROD****FIGURE 15. RECOIL START HANDLE**

## 3.4 Stopping the Generator Set

1. Turn off or disconnect all tools and appliances.
2. Let the generator set run for a few minutes to cool down.
3. Stop the generator set by pressing and holding the On/Off switch in the Off position until the generator set stops.
4. Close the fuel valve.



**WARNING:** Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive which can result in severe personal injury or death. Always close the fuel valve when the engine is not in use to reduce the risk of fuel spillage.

## 3.5 Powering Tools and Appliances



**CAUTION:** Continuous overloading can damage the generator set due to overheating. Make sure loading is within the generator set nameplate rating.

### 3.5.1 Voltage Selector Switch

An AC voltage selector switch is available on P3027 and P3500 portable generator sets.

**To Power 120/240 Volt AC Circuits:** Push the voltage selector switch on the control panel towards the 120/240 Volt output receptacle. Power will also be available at the 120 Volt AC receptacles. The voltmeter on the control panel will indicate approximately 240 Volts AC when the generator set is running.

**To Power 120 Volt AC Circuits Only:** Push the voltage selector switch on the control panel towards the 120 Volt output receptacles. The voltmeter on the control panel will indicate approximately 120 Volts AC when the generator set is running.

### 3.5.2 Connecting Tools and Appliances

TABLE 2. TYPICAL POWER DRAW RATINGS OF COMMON TOOLS AND APPLIANCES

Appliance or Tool	Running Watts (Rated) <sup>1</sup>	Starting Watts (Peak) <sup>1</sup>
Ceiling Fan	800	1200
Central Air Conditioner - 10,000 BTU <sup>2</sup>	1500	3000
Central Air Conditioner - 24,000 BTU <sup>2</sup>	3800	4950
Circular Saw - 7¼"	1400	2300
Clock Radio	100	-
Clothes Dryer - Gas	700	1200
Coffee Maker	1500	-
Computer - 17" Monitor	800	-
Deep Freezer	700	1000
Dishwasher	1500	1500

Electric Water Heater - 40 Gallon <sup>2</sup>	4000	-
Furnace Fan	800	1300
Garage Door Opener	750	1200
Hair Dryer	1250	-
Hot Plate	2100	-
Iron	1200	-
Laser Printer	950	-
Lighting	75	-
Microwave Oven	1000	-
Miter Saw - 10"	1650	2400
Oscillating Fan	200	400
Quartz Halogen Work Light	1000	-
Reciprocating Saw	1200	2000
Refrigerator/Freezer	700	1500
Security System <sup>2</sup>	500	-
Space Heater	1800	-
Stereo Receiver	450	-
Sump Pump	800	1200
Table Fan - 14"	200	400
Television - 27"	500	-
VCR/DVD Player	100	-
Water Well Pump - 1/3 HP (220V) <sup>2</sup>	1000	2000
Window Air Conditioner - 10,000 BTU	1200	2200

<sup>1</sup>The wattage values listed in this table are based on estimated wattage requirements. For exact wattage, check the data plate or the operator's manual for the item you wish to power.

<sup>2</sup>These units are usually hard-wired and require a professionally-installed transfer switch.

**NOTE:** Ratings apply to altitudes up to 1000 feet (304.8 m), 85°F (30°C). Total power available will decrease 3.5% for each 1000 feet (304.8 m) above 1000 feet and 2.0% for each 10°F (5.5°C) increase in ambient temperature above 85°F (30°C).

1. Make sure the tools and appliances to be connected are rated for the voltages at the generator set power output receptacles.
2. Note the kW rating on the generator set nameplate.
3. Check the power draw (watts) of each tool or appliance to be connected. The table above lists typical tool and appliance ratings in watts.
4. Add the watt ratings of all the loads that the generator set will be powering at the same time. Make sure that total wattage will not exceed the generator kW rating.

**Example:** A generator set rated 2.5 kW (2500 watts) can power one 1500 watt heater, a 500 watt drill and a 100 watt light at the same time (2100 watts altogether). One of these loads probably will have to be disconnected if some other tool or appliance is to be powered.



**NOTE:** A motor draws much more power when starting up than when running. It may be necessary to power fewer tools or appliances when motors and air conditioners are cycling on and off.



**CAUTION:** Excessive power draw can overload the generator set. A motor draws much more power when starting up than when running. It may be necessary to power fewer tools or appliances when motors and air conditioners are cycling on and off.

5. Connect the AC power cords to the appropriate receptacles on the control panel. See "Grounding."

### 3.5.3 High Altitude

Maximum power decreases roughly four percent every 1000 feet (310 meters) of increase in elevation above sea level. When operating the generator set at altitudes above 1000 feet, it may be necessary to power fewer loads at the same time.

## 3.6 Charging Batteries

To reduce arcing, always stop the generator set before connecting or disconnecting the battery to be charged. Connect the battery to be charged to the DC terminals on the control panel. Make sure polarity is correct: positive (+) to positive (+); negative (–) to negative (–).



**WARNING:** Ignition of explosive battery gases can cause severe personal injury or death. Arcing at battery terminals can ignite battery gases. Ventilate the area before working on batteries. Wear safety glasses and do not smoke. Always stop the generator set before disconnecting the battery. Always disconnect the negative (–) cable first and reconnect it last.



**NOTE:** The battery on electric-start models has its own charging circuit and therefore must not be connected to the DC charging terminals.

## 3.7 Circuit Breakers

If too many tools or appliances are connected, or a tool or appliance fails due to a short circuit, one or more of the AC or DC circuit breakers on the control panel will trip. Disconnect or turn off as many tools and appliances as possible and reset the circuit breaker by pushing the reset button back in. (It takes at least 10 seconds after tripping to reset.) Turn on or reconnect only as many tools and appliances as the generator set can power.

A tool or appliance probably has a short if it causes a circuit breaker to immediately trip when connected.



**WARNING:** Short circuits in faulty electrical tools and appliances can cause electrocution or fire. Read and follow the tool and appliance manufacturer's instructions and warnings regarding use, maintenance, and proper grounding.

## 3.8 Grounding

Ground the generator set to earth ground by connecting a suitable ground wire to the ground lug terminal on the generator set control panel. The other end of the wire must be connected to a suitable earth ground according to local electrical codes.

Do not connect grounds from tools or appliances to the Ground Lug terminal. Extension cords for tools or appliances with grounding blades must have grounding blades.



**WARNING:** *If the generator neutral supply is not grounded to earth, the user may be left without ground fault protection, which could result in serious personal injury or death. Always make sure the generator neutral supply is grounded to earth before operating the generator set.*

## 3.9 Low Oil Shutdown

The generator set automatically stops if it senses low oil level. If the engine stops while running, or starts but then stops, check the oil level and add oil as necessary. See the "Maintenance" section of this manual.

## 3.10 Electrical Interference with Communications or Appliances

If the generator set causes electrical interference with communications devices, move the generator set and device farther apart or shut down the generator set while the device is operating.

## 3.11 Exercising the Generator Set

Exercise the generator set at least two hours every month if use is infrequent. Run it at approximately 50 percent capacity. A single two-hour exercise period is better than several shorter periods. Exercising a generator set drives off moisture, re-lubricates the engine, replaces stale fuel, and removes oxides from electrical contacts. The result is better starting, more reliable operation, and longer engine life.

## 3.12 Engine Break-In

Proper engine break-in is necessary for top performance.

1. Operate the generator set as it is intended to be operated. However, for the first 1-1/2 hours, if possible, run the generator set at 50 percent capacity, occasionally operating at full power for brief periods. Avoid prolonged low-power operation during break-in.
2. Make sure the engine has oil of the proper viscosity for the ambient temperature. See "RECOMMENDED ENGINE OIL."
3. Check the oil level twice a day or after every 4 hours of operation during the first 20 hours of operation. Change the engine oil after the first 20 hours of operation.

## 3.13 Out-of-Service Protection

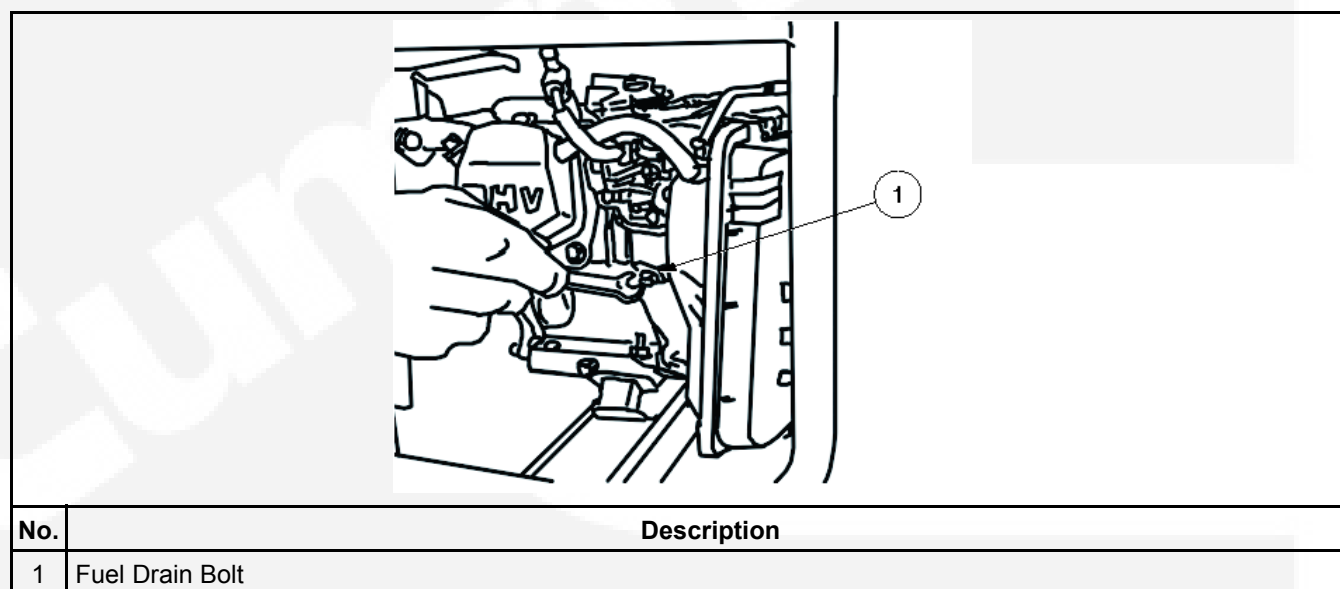
If you are unable to exercise the generator set regularly, and it will not be in use for more than 120 days, the following storage procedure is recommended. Failure to provide out-of-service protection can result in difficult starting, rough engine operation, and reduced engine life.

### 3.13.1 Storing the Generator Set



**WARNING:** Fuel additives can cause a risk of personal injury. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

1. Add a fuel preservative and stabilizer to the fuel tank, or let the generator set run out of fuel. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using the fuel additive.
2. Shut the fuel valve and drain the carburetor bowl (see [Figure 16](#)).
3. Remove the spark plug. Squirt one tablespoon (about 30 cm<sup>3</sup>) of clean engine oil into the spark plug hole. Turn the engine over several revolutions. Replace the spark plug. Pull the recoil starter handle out slowly until compression is felt.
4. Change engine oil and attach a tag indicating the viscosity of oil used.
5. Store the generator set in a dry, protected area.



**FIGURE 16. CARBURETOR DRAIN**

### 3.13.2 Returning the Generator Set to Service

1. Check the tag on generator set to verify that oil viscosity is correct for the current ambient temperature. Add or change oil as necessary.
2. Clean the air cleaner if dirty.
3. Open the fuel valve.
4. Start the generator set. Initial start-up may be rough and smoky due to the extra oil in the cylinder. Remove and clean the spark plug if necessary.

# 4 Maintenance

## 4.1 Maintenance Schedule

Periodic maintenance is essential for top performance. Use the table below as a guide. Under hot or dusty operating conditions, some maintenance operations should be performed more frequently, as indicated by the footnotes in the table.

Keep a log of maintenance performed and the hours run. Recording maintenance will help you keep it regular and provide a basis for supporting warranty claims. A "Maintenance Record" form is included at the back of this manual.



**WARNING:** *Accidental starting of the generator set during maintenance can cause severe personal injury or death. Before performing maintenance, disconnect the spark plug wire from the spark plug. For electric start models, disconnect both of the generator set starting battery cables. To reduce the risk of arcing, remove the negative (–) cable first and reconnect it last.*



**WARNING:** *Contact with a hot generator set can cause severe burns. Always allow the generator set to cool before performing any maintenance or service.*

TABLE 3. PERIODIC MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

SERVICE THESE ITEMS		SERVICE INTERVAL				
	EACH USE	FIRST MONTH OR 20 HOURS	EVERY 3 MONTHS OR 50 HOURS	EVERY MONTH	EVERY 6 MONTHS OR 100 HOURS	EVERY YEAR OR 300 HOURS
General Inspection	X <sup>1</sup>					
Check Oil Level	X					
Test GFCI	X					
Change Engine Oil		X			X	
Clean Air Filter			X <sup>2</sup>			
Clean Cylinder Cooling Fins			X <sup>2</sup>			
Clean Spark Plug					X	
Clean the Spark Arrestor					X	
Clean Fuel Sediment Cup						X <sup>3</sup>
Clean Fuel Tank						X <sup>3</sup>
Adjust Valve Lash						X <sup>3</sup>
Check fuel line	Every 2 years (Replace if necessary) <sup>3</sup>					
<div>1. See "General Inspections."</div> <div>2. Service more frequently when used in dusty environments.</div> <div>3. These items must be performed by a trained and experienced mechanic (A list of authorized Cummins Onan dealers is available at <a href="http://www.cumminsonan.com">www.cumminsonan.com</a>).</div>						

## 4.2 General Inspections

The operator should check the following before the first start of the day and after every eight hours of operation:

1. Look for fuel leaks around the fuel tank, fuel hose, fuel valve, and carburetor. Close the fuel valve and repair leaks immediately.
2. Look and listen for exhaust leaks while the engine is running. Have all leaks repaired before continuing operation.



**WARNING:** *Contact with a hot generator set can cause severe burns. Always allow the generator set to cool before performing any maintenance or service.*

3. Check for dirt and debris and clean as necessary.



**CAUTION:** *A clogged flywheel air inlet screen or dirty cooling fins can cause overheating and engine damage. Keep the cooling fins and air inlet screen clean.*

4. Check the engine oil level and add oil as necessary. See "Changing Engine Oil."

## 4.3 Changing Engine Oil



**WARNING:** *State and federal agencies have determined that contact with used engine oil can cause cancer and reproductive toxicity. Avoid skin contact and breathing of vapors. Use rubber gloves and wash exposed skin.*

Refer to the Periodic Maintenance Schedule Table in the "Maintenance Schedule" section for scheduled oil changes and [Figure 17](#).

1. Make sure the generator set is level and has been run until warm.



**WARNING:** *Crankcase pressure can blow hot engine oil out of the fill opening, causing severe burns. Always stop the generator set before removing the oil fill cap.*

2. Stop the generator set and remove the oil fill cap (see [Figure 17](#)).
3. Remove the oil drain plug and drain the oil into a pan.
4. Reinstall the drain plug and refill with new engine oil just to the brim of the fill opening. Use the oil fill tube provided with the generator to fill oil. See "Engine Oil Recommendations" for the type of engine oil to use and "Specifications" for engine oil capacity.



**CAUTION:** *Too little oil can cause severe engine damage. Make sure that the oil level is above the Add mark on the dipstick.*

5. Start the generator set and let it run for a short time while checking for oil leaks.
6. Used oil is harmful to the environment. Pour the used oil into a sealed container and deliver it to the nearest recycling center.

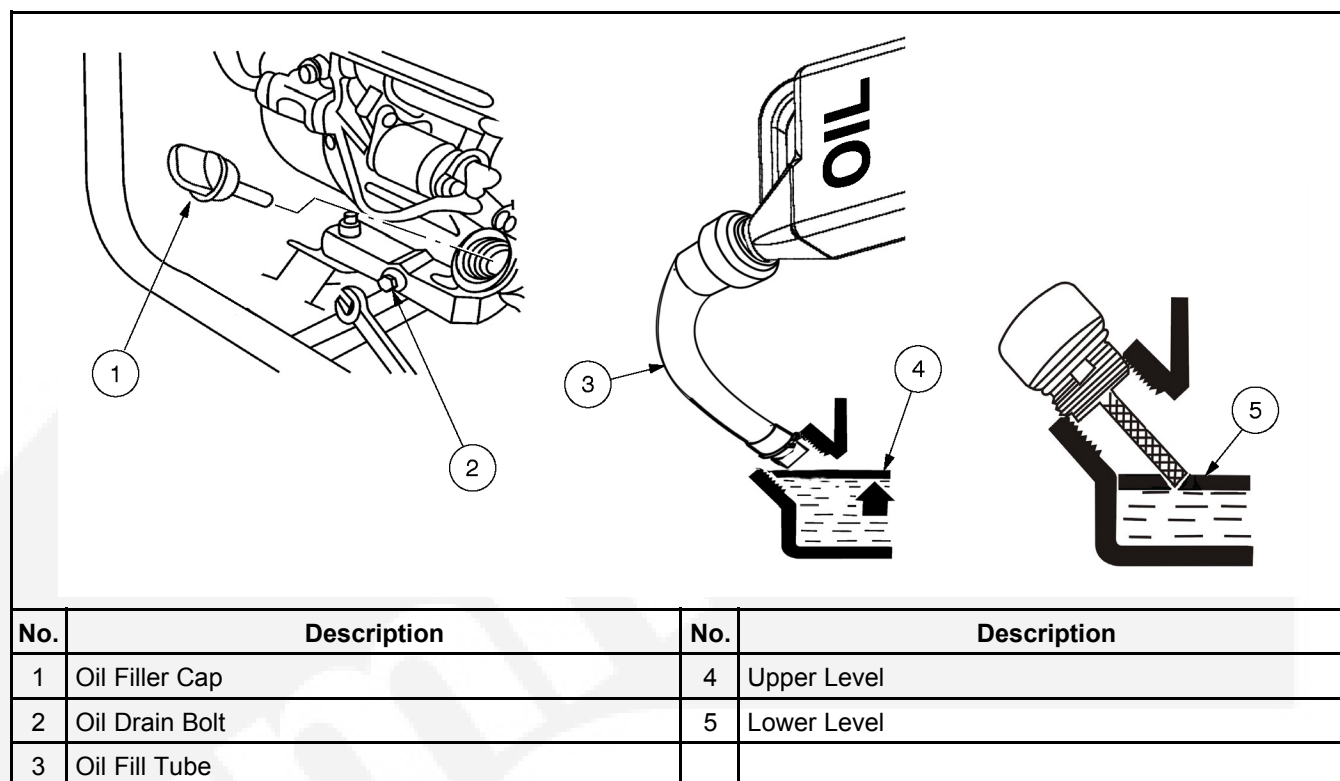


FIGURE 17. OIL CHECK, FILL, AND DRAIN

## 4.4 Air Filter Maintenance

Refer to the "Maintenance Schedule" section for scheduled air filter maintenance. Clean more often in dusty environments.



**CAUTION:** A dirty air cleaner restricts air flow to the carburetor. To prevent carburetor malfunction, service the air cleaner regularly. Service more frequently when operating the generator set in extremely dusty areas.



**WARNING:** Using gasoline or flammable solvents to clean components can cause a fire or explosion, which can result in severe personal injury or death. Only use soapy water or a nonflammable solvent for cleaning components.



**CAUTION:** Running the engine without an air cleaner causes rapid engine wear. Never run the engine without the air cleaner installed.

1. Remove the filter cover (Item 2 in [Figure 18](#)) by unsnapping the two spring clips (Item 1).
2. Remove the two foam filter elements (Item 3) and thoroughly wash them with soap and water. Let them dry thoroughly.
3. Knead in 1 teaspoon (5 cm<sup>3</sup>) of clean engine oil into each foam filter element. The oil should be distributed evenly throughout each filter element.
4. Reinstall the filter elements, the gray filter first (finer pores), and then the black filter (larger pores).
5. Secure the cover with the spring clips.

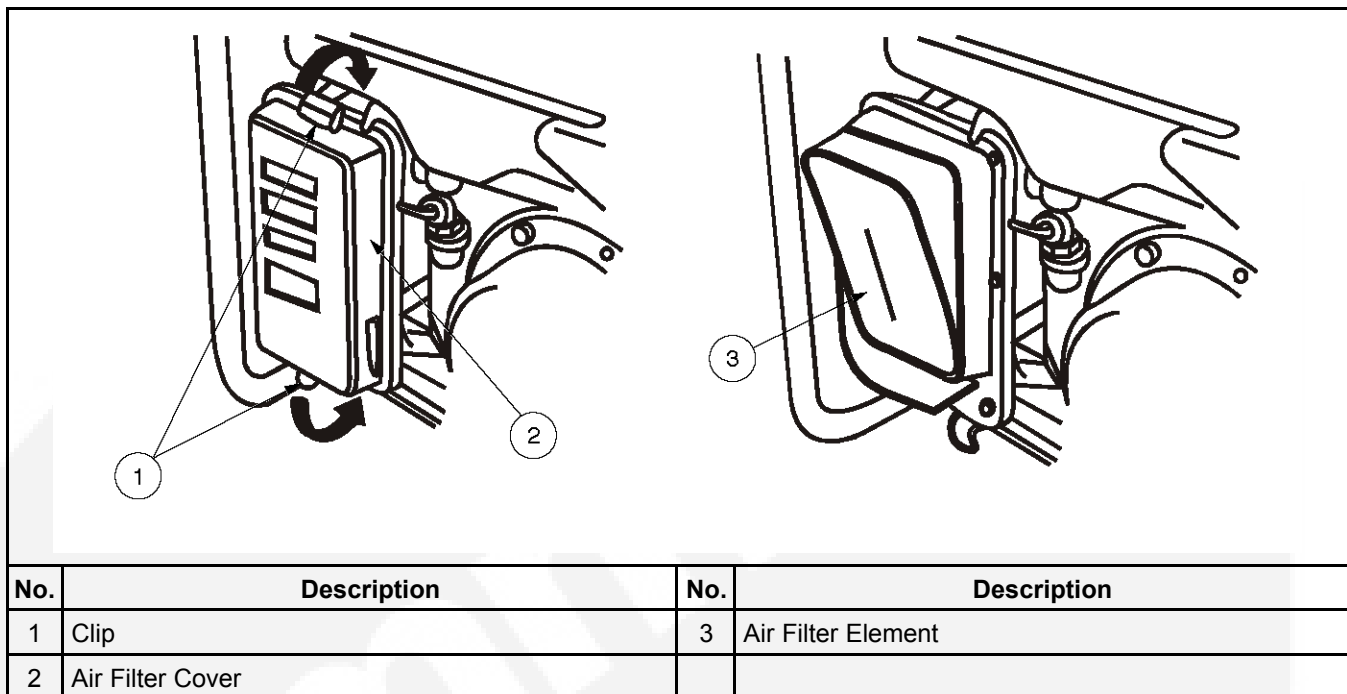


FIGURE 18. AIR FILTER

## 4.5 Fuel Sediment Cup Cleaning

Refer to the "Maintenance Schedule" section for scheduled cleaning. Have the filter replaced if the fuel has been contaminated or the engine seems to have lost power. Cleaning and replacement must only be performed by an authorized Cummins Onan dealer.

## 4.6 Spark Plug Maintenance

Refer to the "Maintenance Schedule" section for scheduled spark plug maintenance. Perform spark plug maintenance sooner if engine performance has deteriorated. To ensure proper engine operation, the spark plug must be properly gapped and free of deposits. A fouled spark plug can cause the engine to misfire, operate erratically, or stop running when a load is applied.



**WARNING:** *Contact with hot generator parts can cause severe burns. Always allow the generator set to cool before performing any maintenance or service.*

1. Turn off the generator set and allow it to cool down.
2. Remove the spark plug cap.
3. Clean any dirt from around the spark plug base.
4. Use the wrench supplied in the tool kit to remove the spark plug.
5. Visually inspect the spark plug. Discard it if the insulator is cracked or chipped. If the spark plug is to be reused, clean it with a wire brush.
6. Measure the plug gap with a feeler gauge. Correct as necessary by carefully bending the side electrode. The gap should be 0.70-0.80mm (0.028-0.031 inch).

- 7. Verify that that the spark plug washer is in good condition Thread the spark plug in by hand to prevent cross-threading.
- 8. After the spark plug is seated, tighten with a spark plug wrench to compress the washer. If installing a new spark plug, tighten 1/2 turn after the spark plug seats to compress the washer. If reinstalling a used spark plug, tighten 1/8-1/4 turn after the spark plug seats to compress the washer.

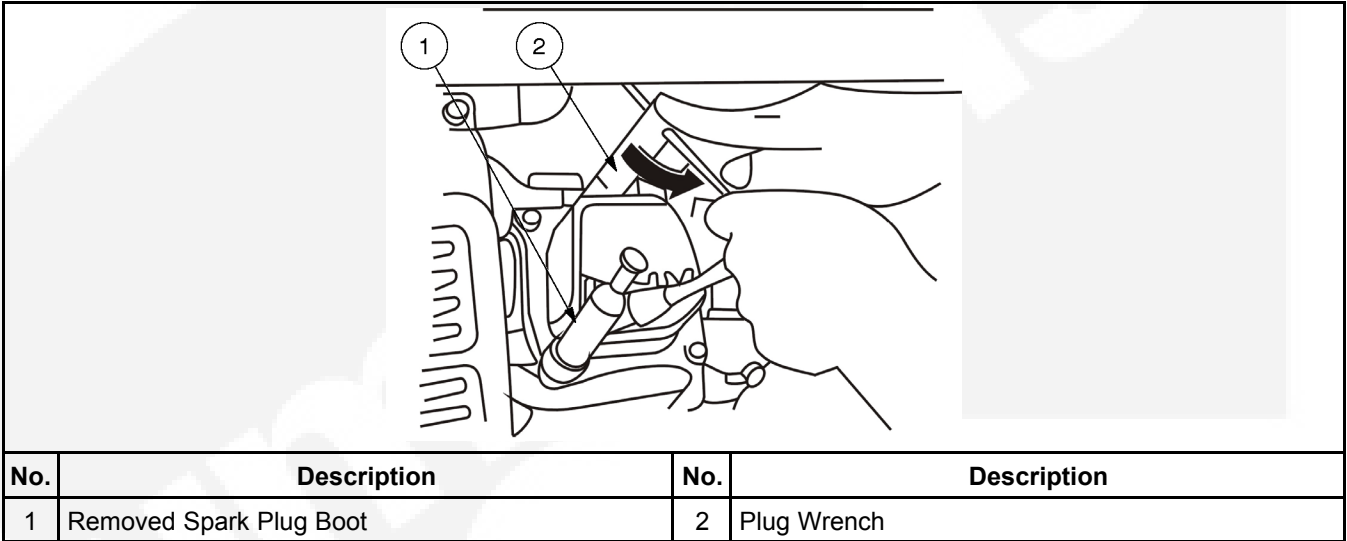


FIGURE 19. SPARK PLUG REMOVAL

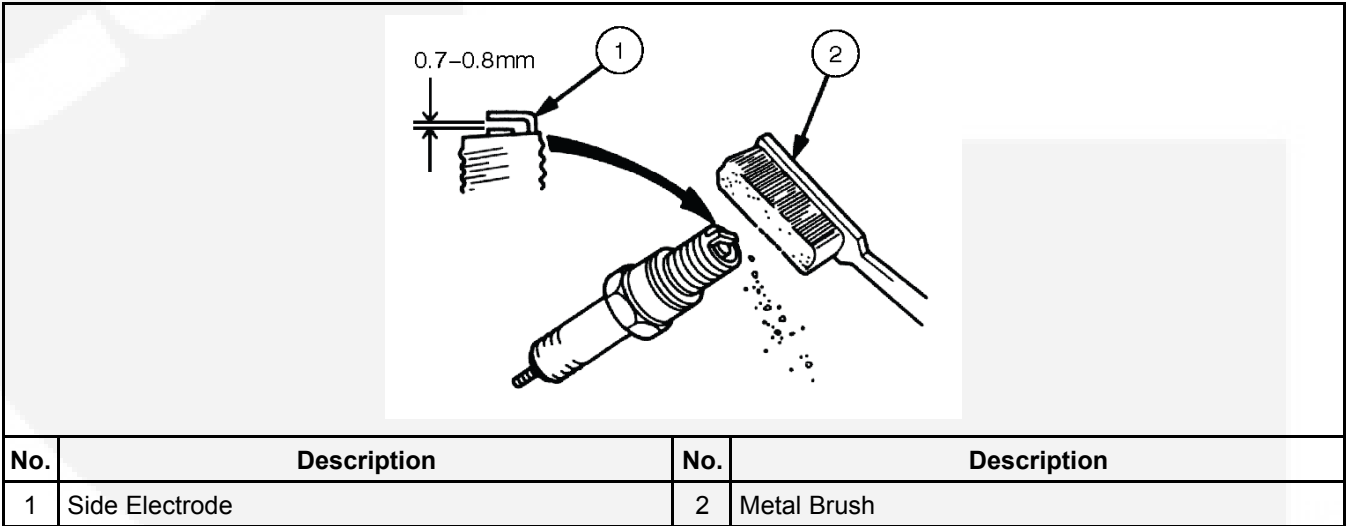


FIGURE 20. SPARK PLUG MAINTENANCE

## 4.7 Cleaning the Generator Set

Refer to the "Maintenance Schedule" section for scheduled cleaning of the generator set. Clean more often in dusty environments. Remove spilled oil and fuel from the generator set immediately with a dry rag. Dispose of cleaning rags properly. Use a damp cloth to clean dust and dirt from the generator set. Do not use cleaning solvents, which can damage electrical components.



**WARNING:** *Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from flying debris when cleaning the generator set with compressed air.*



**CAUTION:** *Cleaning the generator set with a pressure washer can cause damage to the generator set by shorting the generator and other electrical components. Do not use a pressure washer to clean the generator set.*

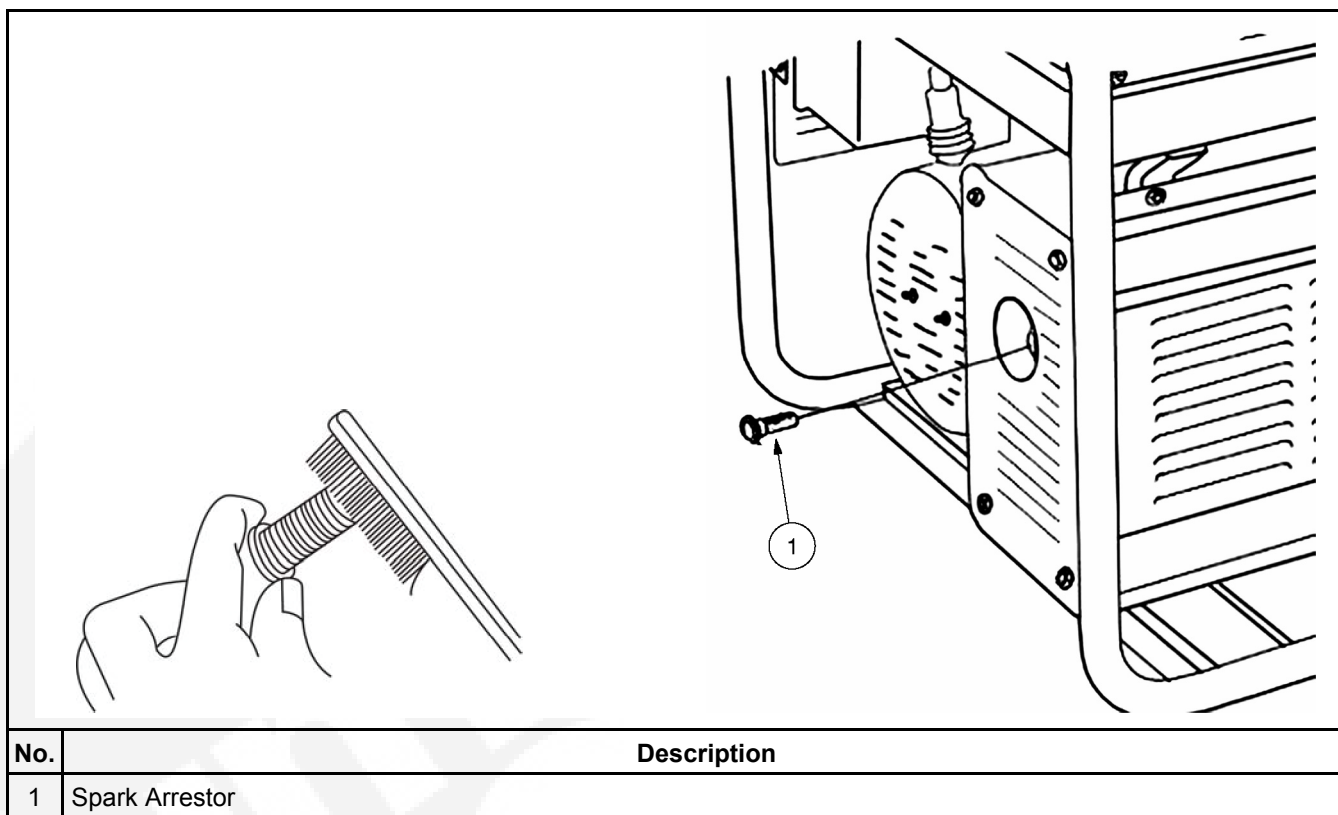
Wear safety glasses if using compressed air to clean the engine cooling fins. Do not use a pressure washer to clean the generator set. Water can enter the generator and other electrical components causing shorts that can disable the generator set.

## 4.8 Cleaning the Spark Arrester



**WARNING:** *Contact with a hot muffler can cause severe burns. Allow the generator set to cool before servicing the muffler.*

Refer to the "Maintenance Schedule" section for scheduled spark arrester cleaning. After letting the generator set cool down, remove the spark arrester screen. Inspect for damage and replace if defective. To clean, lightly tap the screen and clean any deposits with a wire brush. Reinstall the spark arrester and tighten the screw securely.

**FIGURE 21. SPARK ARRESTOR**

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# 5 Troubleshooting

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The following troubleshooting guide can be used for basic problem diagnosis. If these recommendations do not resolve the problem, contact an authorized Cummins Onan service center.



**WARNING:** *Many troubleshooting procedures or replacement of parts present hazards that can result in equipment damage or severe personal injury or death. Only trained and experienced service personnel with knowledge of fuels, electricity, and machinery hazards should perform service procedures. Review the Safety Precautions section of this manual.*



**WARNING:** *Contact with a hot generator set can cause severe burns. Always allow the generator set to cool before performing any maintenance or service.*

## ENGINE WON'T START

**Logic:** The generator set will not start.

### Possible Causes:

- Out of fuel
- Fuel valve closed
- Loose spark plug cable
- Defective spark plug
- Low oil level

### Corrective Action:

1. Make sure the fuel tank is full.
2. Make sure the fuel valve is fully open.
3. Make sure the spark plug cable is connected.
4. Remove and clean the spark plug; replace it if necessary.
5. Check the oil level and add oil as necessary.
6. If the problem is still not corrected, contact a Cummins Onan service center.

## BLACK EXHAUST

**Logic:** The exhaust is dark.

### Possible Causes:

- Choke stuck in the closed position
- Dirty air cleaner
- Rich fuel mixture

### Corrective Action:

1. Make sure the choke is open.
2. Clean the air cleaner.
3. If the problem is still not corrected, contact a Cummins Onan service center for information on fuel mixtures.



**WARNING:** *Many troubleshooting procedures or replacement of parts present hazards that can result in equipment damage or severe personal injury or death. Only trained and experienced service personnel with knowledge of fuels, electricity, and machinery hazards should perform service procedures. Review the Safety Precautions section of this manual.*



**WARNING:** *Contact with a hot generator set can cause severe burns. Always allow the generator set to cool before performing any maintenance or service.*

### ENGINE STOPS

**Logic:** The generator set stops on its own.

**Possible Causes:**

- Out of fuel
- Low oil level

**Corrective Action:**

1. Make sure the fuel tank is full.
2. Check the oil level and add oil as necessary.
3. If the problem is still not corrected, contact a Cummins Onan service center.

### ENGINE SURGES

**Logic:** The engine suddenly runs faster than normal.

**Possible Causes:**

- Loose spark plug cable
- Faulty spark plug
- Generator set not level
- Dirty fuel strainer

**Corrective Action:**

1. Make sure the spark plug cable is properly connected or have it serviced, if damaged.
2. Remove and clean or replace the spark plug.
3. Make sure the generator set is on a level surface.
4. Check the fuel strainer and clean if necessary.
5. If the problem is still not corrected, contact a Cummins Onan service center.



**WARNING:** *Many troubleshooting procedures or replacement of parts present hazards that can result in equipment damage or severe personal injury or death. Only trained and experienced service personnel with knowledge of fuels, electricity, and machinery hazards should perform service procedures. Review the Safety Precautions section of this manual.*



**WARNING:** *Contact with a hot generator set can cause severe burns. Always allow the generator set to cool before performing any maintenance or service.*

#### **NO AC OUTPUT**

**Logic:** The generator set is running but you are not able to operate any tools or appliances.

##### **Possible Causes:**

- Tripped AC circuit breaker

##### **Corrective Action:**

1. Remove all loads.
2. Reset the circuit breaker.
3. Check loads for defects and make sure the total load does not exceed the generator set rating.
4. If the problem is still not corrected, contact a Cummins Onan service center.

#### **NO DC OUTPUT**

**Logic:** The engine will not crank.

##### **Possible Causes:**

- Tripped DC circuit breaker

##### **Corrective Action:**

1. Disconnect the battery.
2. Reset the circuit breaker.
3. Have the battery tested for shorts and, if necessary, replace the battery.
4. If the problem is still not corrected, contact a Cummins Onan service center.



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## 6 Specifications

**TABLE 4. P2220C (EGMBB), P2927, P2927C, AND P3027 (EGMBG) SPECIFICATIONS**

	EGMBB	EGMBG		
GENERATOR	P2220c	P2927	P2927c	P3027
AC OUTPUT:				
Frequency (Hertz)	60 Hz	60 Hz	60 Hz	60 Hz
Voltage	120 Volts	120 / 240 Volts	120 / 240 Volts	120 / 240 Volts
Rated Power	2000 Watts	2700 Watts	2700 Watts	2700 Watts
Rated Current	16.6 Amps	22.5 / 11.3 Amps	22.5 / 11.3 Amps	22.5 / 11.3 Amps
DC OUTPUT:	12 VDC / 8.3 Amps	-	-	12 VDC / 8.3 Amps
<b>ENGINE</b>				
Engine Speed (RPM)	3600	3600	3600	3600
Fuel	Gasoline	Gasoline	Gasoline	Gasoline
Engine Oil Capacity*	0.63 US qt (0.6 L)	0.63 US qt (0.6 L)	0.63 US qt (0.6 L)	0.63 US qt (0.6 L)
Spark Plug Type	F7RTC	F7RTC	F7RTC	F7RTC
Spark Plug Gap	0.028 in. (0.7 mm)	0.028 in. (0.7 mm)	0.028 in. (0.7 mm)	0.028 in. (0.7 mm)
Engine Valve Lash (Intake and Exhaust)	0.0039 - 0.066 inches (0.10 - 0.15 mm)	0.0039 - 0.066 inches (0.10 - 0.15 mm)	0.0039 - 0.066 inches (0.10 - 0.15 mm)	0.0039 - 0.066 inches (0.10 - 0.15 mm)
Ignition Timing (Fixed)	20° BTDC	20° BTDC	20° BTDC	20° BTDC
Starting System	Recoil	Recoil	Recoil	Recoil
Displacement	197 cc	197 cc	197 cc	197 cc
<b>GENERATOR SET</b>				
Dry Weight	100 lbs (45 kg)	100 lbs (45 kg)	100 lbs (45 kg)	100 lbs (45 kg)
Dimensions:				
Length	23.2 inches (590 mm)	23.2 inches (590 mm)	23.2 inches (590 mm)	23.2 inches (590 mm)
Width	18.7 inches (475 mm)	18.7 inches (475 mm)	18.7 inches (475 mm)	18.7 inches (475 mm)
Height	18 inches (457 mm)	18 inches (457 mm)	18 inches (457 mm)	18 inches (457 mm)
Fuel Tank Capacity	4 US Gal (15 L)	4 US Gal (15 L)	4 US Gal (15 L)	4 US Gal (15 L)
Operating Time at Rated Output	13 Hours	8 Hours	8 Hours	8 Hours
* See "Engine Oil recommendations" for recommended engine oil type.				

**TABLE 5. P2400 (EGMBB) AND P3500 (EGMBG) SPECIFICATIONS**

<b>GENERATOR</b>	<b>P2400 (EGMBB)</b>	<b>P3500 (EGMBG)</b>
AC OUTPUT:		
Frequency (Hertz)	60 Hz	60 Hz
Voltage	120 Volts	120 / 240 Volts
Rated Power	2000 Watts	2500 Watts
Rated Current	16.6 Amps	20.8 / 10.4 Amps
DC OUTPUT:	12 VDC / 8.3 Amps	12 VDC / 8.3 Amps
<b>ENGINE</b>		
Engine Speed (RPM)	3600	3600
Fuel	Gasoline	Gasoline
Engine Oil Capacity*	0.63 US qt (0.6 L)	0.63 US qt (0.6 L)
Spark Plug Type	F7RTC	F7RTC
Spark Plug Gap	0.028 in. (0.7 mm)	0.028 in. (0.7 mm)
Engine Valve Lash (Intake and Exhaust)	0.0039 –0.006 inches (0.10 – 0.15 mm)	0.0039 –0.006 inches (0.10 – 0.15 mm)
Ignition Timing (fixed)	20° BTDC	20° BTDC
Starting System	Recoil	Recoil
Displacement	197 cc	197 cc
<b>GENERATOR SET</b>		
Dry Weight	99.9 lb (45 kg)	106.6 lb (48 kg)
Dimensions:		
Length	24.1 inches (612 mm)	24.1 inches (612 mm)
Width	19.6 inches (497 mm)	19.6 inches (497 mm)
Height	19.3 inches (490 mm)	19.3 inches (490 mm)
Fuel Tank Capacity	4 US Gal (15 L)	4 US Gal (15 L)
Operating Time at Rated Output	13 Hours	12 Hours
* See "Engine Oil recommendations" for recommended engine oil type.		

**TABLE 6. FUEL CONSUMPTION AND RUN TIME VS. PERCENT LOAD - EGMBB MODELS**

<b>Tank Capacity</b>	<b>Fuel Rate</b>	<b>Percent Load</b>				
		<b>100%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>25 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>
15.1L	Grams / hr	1125	980	910	830	740
	Liter / Hr	1.40	1.30	1.20	1.10	1.00
	Gallons / hr	0.37	0.35	0.32	0.30	0.26
	Estimated Run Time (hr)	10.90	11.40	12.30	13.50	15.10

**TABLE 7. FUEL CONSUMPTION AND RUN TIME VS. PERCENT LOAD - EGMBG MODELS**

Tank Capacity	Fuel Rate	Percent Load				
		100%	75%	50 %	25 %	0 %
15.1L	Grams / hr	1153	1033	947	839	744
	Liter / Hr	1.60	1.40	1.30	1.10	1.00
	Gallons / hr	0.41	0.37	0.34	0.30	0.27
	Estimated Run Time (hr)	9.70	10.80	11.80	13.30	15.00

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# 7 Important Information for California Users



**NOTE:** This section applies to P2220c and P2927c models. It also applies to P2400 and P3500 models built before 2008.

These generator sets meet the requirements of California's Exhaust Emissions Standards for Utility and Lawn and Garden Equipment Engines, which correspond to the engine class, the year manufactured, and the date of the original sale, if equipped with an emissions label so stating.

As a California user of this engine, please be aware that unauthorized modifications or replacement of fuel, exhaust, air intake, or speed control system components that affect engine emissions are prohibited. Unauthorized modification, removal, or replacement of the engine label is prohibited.

Carefully review this Operator Manual along with any other manuals and information you received with your generator set. If you are unsure that the installation, use, maintenance, or service of your generator set is authorized, seek assistance from an approved Cummins Onan engine dealer or an approved dealer for your equipment.

California engine users may use the information below as an aid in locating information related to the California Air Resources Board requirements for emissions control.

**TABLE 8. EMISSIONS CONTROL INFORMATION**

Engine Warranty Information	The California emissions control warranty statement is located in the same packet of information as this manual when the engine is shipped from the factory.
Engine Valve Lash	See "Specifications."
Engine Ignition Timing	See "Specifications."
Engine Fuel Requirements	The engine is certified to operate on unleaded gasoline. See Fuel Recommendations in "Introduction."
Engine Lubricating Oil Requirements	See Engine Oil Recommendations in "Introduction."
Engine Fuel Mixture Settings	These engines have precision-manufactured carburetors which are not adjustable.
Engine Adjustments	See "Starting and Running the Generator Set."
Engine Emission Control System	The engine emission control system consists of internal engine design and construction.

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## 8 Maintenance Record

Record all periodic and unscheduled maintenance and service. Refer to the "Maintenance" section of this manual.

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Record the name, address, and phone number of your authorized Cummins Onan service center.


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