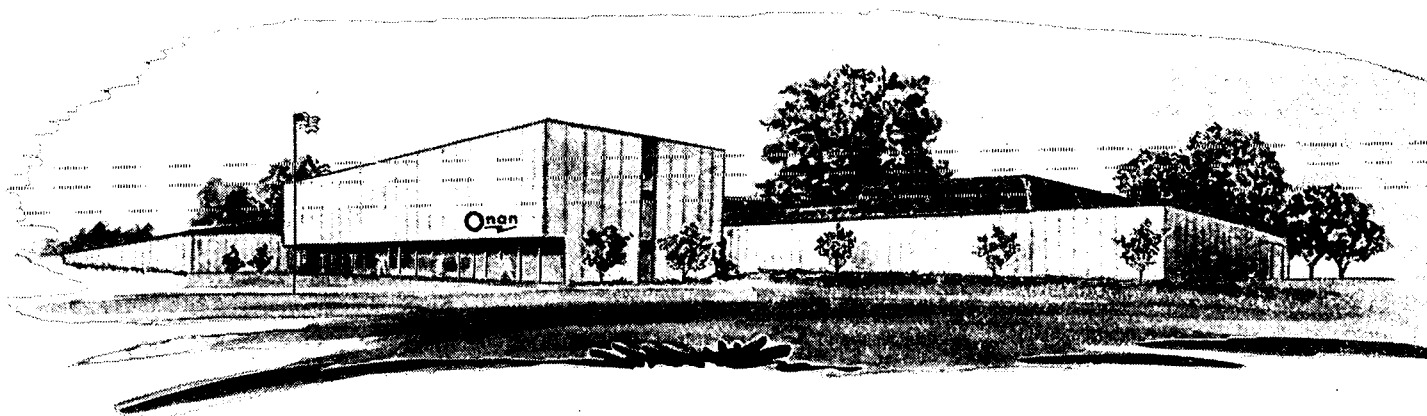




**INSTALLATION GUIDE  
FOR  
4.0 BF, SPEC. 16004 SERIES  
RV ELECTRIC GENERATING SETS**



**ONAN**

**1400 73RD AVENUE N.E. • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55432**  
A DIVISION OF ONAN CORPORATION

965-0610

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# SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The following symbols in this manual signal potentially dangerous conditions to the operator or equipment. Read this manual carefully. Know when these conditions can exist. Then, take necessary steps to protect personnel as well as equipment.

**WARNING** Onan uses this symbol throughout this manual to warn of possible serious personal injury.

**CAUTION** This symbol refers to possible equipment damage.

Fuels, electrical equipment, batteries, exhaust gases and moving parts present potential hazards that could result in serious, personal injury. Take care in following these recommended procedures.

- **Use Extreme Caution Near Gasoline. A constant potential explosive or fire hazard exists.**

Do not fill fuel tank near unit with engine running. Do not smoke or use open flame near the unit or the fuel tank.

Be sure all fuel supplies have a positive shutoff valve.

Fuel lines must be of steel piping, adequately secured and free of leaks. Use a flexible section of fuel line between generator set and stationary fuel line in the vehicle. This flexible section must be 100% NON-METALLIC to prevent electrical current from using it as a conductor.

Have a fire extinguisher nearby. Be sure extinguisher is properly maintained and be familiar with its proper use. Extinguishers rated ABC by the NFPA are appropriate for all applications. Consult the local fire department for the correct type of extinguisher for various applications.

- **Guard Against Electric Shock**

Remove electric power before removing protective shields or touching electrical equipment. Use rubber insulative mats placed on dry wood platforms over floors that are metal or concrete when around electrical equipment. Do not wear damp clothing (particularly wet shoes) or allow skin surfaces to be damp when handling electrical equipment.

Jewelry is a good conductor of electricity and should be removed when working on electrical equipment.

Always use an appropriately sized, approved double-throw transfer switch with any standby generator set. DO NOT PLUG PORTABLE OR STANDBY SETS DIRECTLY INTO A HOUSE RECEPTACLE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY POWER. It is possible for current to flow from generator into the utility line. This creates extreme hazards to anyone working on lines to restore power.

Use extreme caution when working on electrical components. High voltages cause injury or death.

Follow all state and local electrical codes. Have all electrical installations performed by a qualified licensed electrician.

- **Do Not Smoke While Servicing Batteries**

Lead acid batteries emit a highly explosive hydrogen gas that can be ignited by electrical arcing or by smoking.

- **Exhaust Gases Are Toxic**

Provide an adequate exhaust system to properly expel discharged gases. Check exhaust system regularly for leaks. Ensure that exhaust manifolds are secure and not warped.

Be sure the unit is well ventilated.

- **Keep The Unit And Surrounding Area Clean**

Remove all oil deposits. Remove all unnecessary grease and oil from the unit. Accumulated grease and oil can cause overheating and subsequent engine damage and may present a potential fire hazard.

Do NOT store anything in the generator compartment such as oil cans, oily rags, chains, wooden blocks etc. A fire could result or the generator set operation may be adversely affected. Keep the floor clean and dry.

- **Protect Against Moving Parts**

Avoid moving parts of the unit. Loose jackets, shirts or sleeves should not be permitted because of the danger of becoming caught in moving parts.

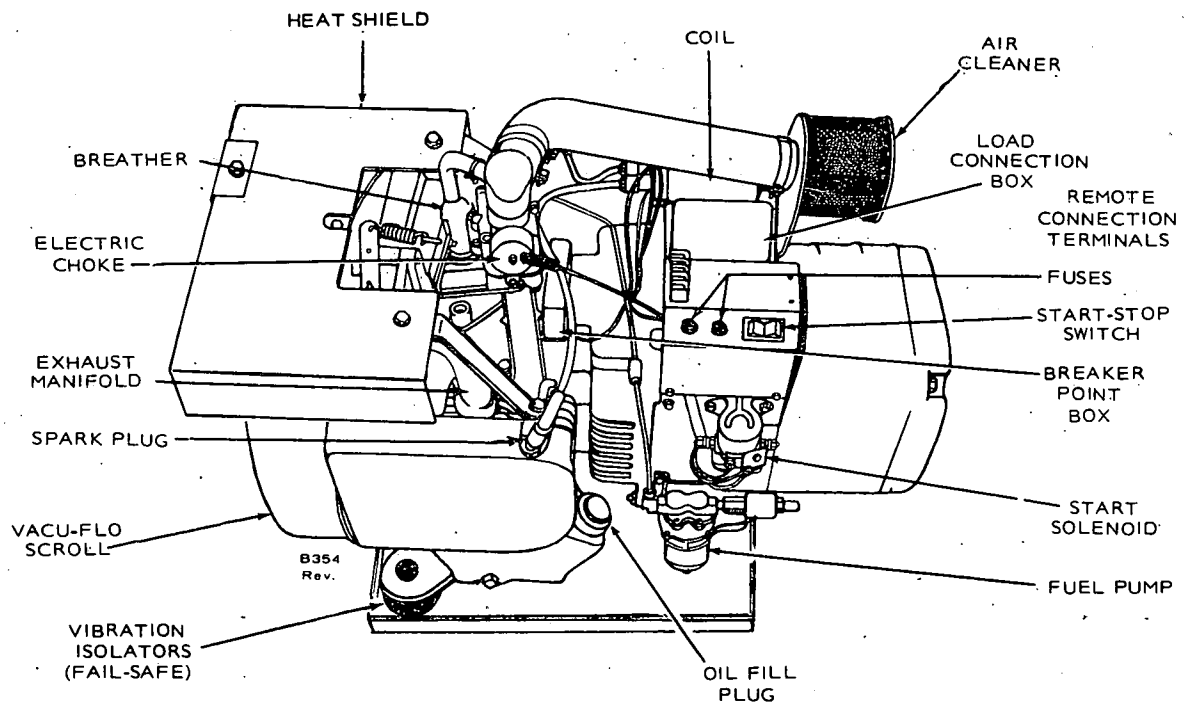
Make sure all nuts and bolts are secure. Keep power shields and guards in position.

If adjustments *must* be made while the unit is running, use extreme caution around hot manifolds, moving parts, etc.

Do not work on this equipment when mentally or physically fatigued.

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TYPICAL BF FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

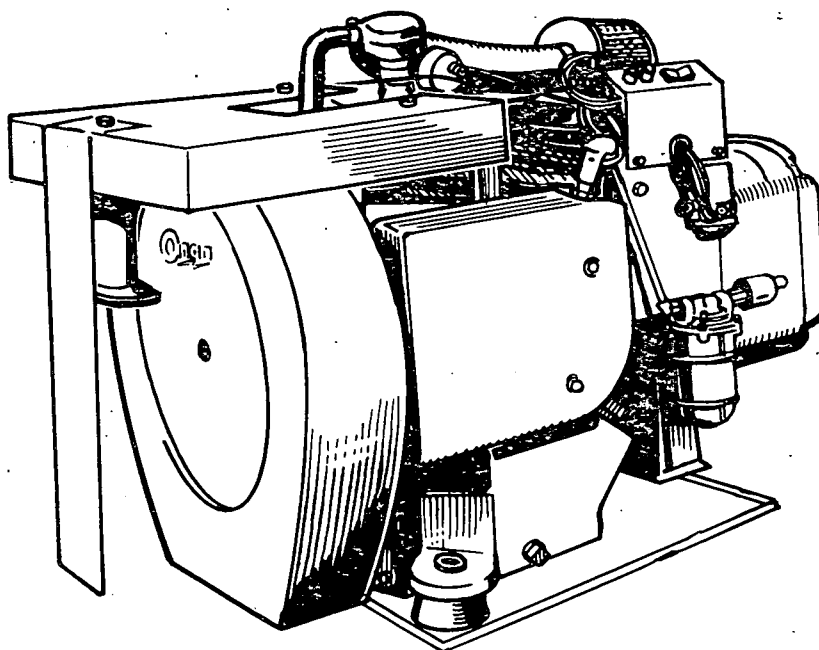
# INTRODUCTION

This manual covers detailed installation procedures for the UL Listed/CSA Certified Onan model 4.0 BF-3CR Spec 16004 recreational vehicle electric generating sets. Each Onan RV electric generating set **MUST** be installed properly if it is to operate reliably, quietly and most important safely, even though the set itself meets or exceeds all Listing Requirements. Being Listed and Certified means this electric generating set meets or exceeds all requirements of ANSI A119.2 and A198.1 as well as UL Subject 1248 and CSA Electrical Bulletin #946.

Besides requirements such as those of the National Electric Code (NEC), Recreational Vehicle Institute

Inc. (ANSI A119.2 and A198.1), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 501C), and CSA #946 (For Canadian models); follow all applicable state and local codes for mobile or recreational vehicles. All codes and recommendations are required of various Motor Home Manufacturers in conjunction with requirements for electric generating set installations listed above.

This manual provides detailed installation guide lines for this Onan model **ONLY**. For operation and maintenance procedures, refer to the individual Operator's manual which accompanies each set. The Operator's manual is #965-0120.



## WARNING

*TO PREVENT FIRE OR ACCIDENT HAZARD . . . THIS UNIT MUST BE INSTALLED ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER'S DETAILED INSTALLATION PROCEDURES OBSERVING ALL MINIMUM CLEARANCES.*

*TO AVOID POSSIBLE PERSONAL INJURY OR EQUIPMENT DAMAGE, ANY INSTALLATION AND ALL SERVICE MUST BE PERFORMED BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.*

# GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

## ENGINE

Onan opposed 2-cylinder, 4-cycle, air cooled, gasoline fueled engine rated 8.5 bhp at 1800 rpm. Remote start, negative ground, 12-volt, motorized alternator cranking.

## ALTERNATOR

Onan-built, four-pole, revolving armature permanently aligned to engine. Generator produces 120-volts, 33.3 amps., 60 hertz, single phase AC, 4000 watt output.

## CONTROL

Top mounted control featuring automatic electric choke and fuel pump, fused battery charging and Start Stop controls with remote start capability.

## RV ELECTRIC GENERATING SET

Some general specifications are listed below for reference purposes.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Height .....	20.82 (529 mm)
Weight .....	217 lbs. (98 kg)
Length .....	30.38 in. (772 mm)
Width .....	17.50 in. (444 mm)
Air Requirements	
Total (CFM) .....	600 (17.00 m <sup>3</sup> /min)
Fuel Inlet Connection	
Size .....	1/8 NPTF
Battery Voltage .....	12 Volts
Battery AMP-HR	
Minimum .....	74 (266.40 kC)
Battery Ground .....	Negative
RPM (At rated load 60 Hz) .....	1800

**NOTE:** Metric values are shown in parentheses.

# PRE-START CHECKS

This RV generator set is complete as received except for exhaust components and any other optional accessory items which are shipped loose with each set for installation later. After the initial installation is completed the following steps are necessary before actually starting the generator set for the first time.

1. Install the exhaust system.
2. Add oil to the engine.
3. Connect fuel line to engine from fuel supply tank.
4. Connect electrical leads to load circuits.
5. Connect the start stop remote switches (if used).
6. Connect battery leads between set and battery. Connect ground lead last.

Vehicle chassis (frame) ground and the battery and generator set ground should all be electrically connected to be at 0 ground potential. All Onan units are designed for negative ground application.

## FUEL SYSTEM

With set running, check for leaks. Raw fuel will cause fumes which could EXPLODE. Check around carburetor and fuel pump inlets. Make sure fuel lines are not rubbing against anything which could cause breakage.

## ELECTRICAL

### AC Output

All AC leads (M1, M2, M3 and M4) terminate in generator set's junction box. These wires should be connected to distribution box with multistrand wire enclosed in a flexible conduit. Check all wires (to and from the generator set) for fraying and loose connections. For information on load connections refer to *ELECTRICAL LOADS AND CONNECTIONS* section following.

### Battery Connections

Battery positive (+) connects to start solenoid. Battery negative (-) connects to location on rear of generator. Check terminals on set for clean and tight connections.

## WARNING

### ENGINE EXHAUST GAS (CARBON MONOXIDE) IS DEADLY!

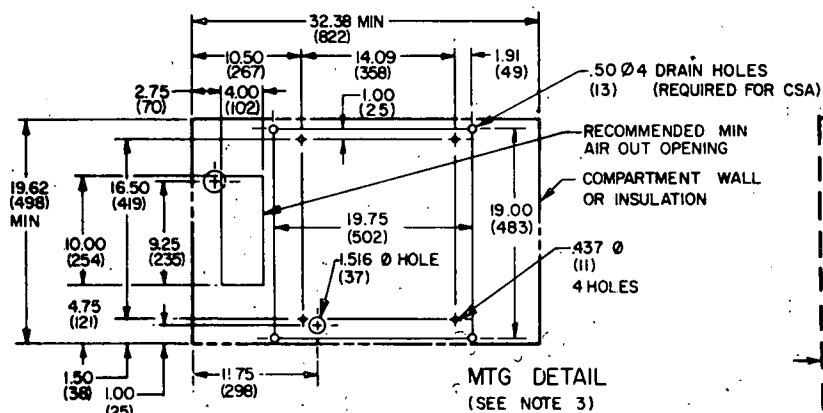
Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas formed by incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon fuels. Carbon monoxide is a dangerous gas that can cause unconsciousness and is potentially lethal. Some of the symptoms or signs of carbon monoxide inhalation are:

- Dizziness
- Intense Headache
- Weakness and Sleepiness
- Vomiting
- Muscular Twitching
- Throbbing in Temples

If you experience any of the above symptoms, get out into fresh air immediately.

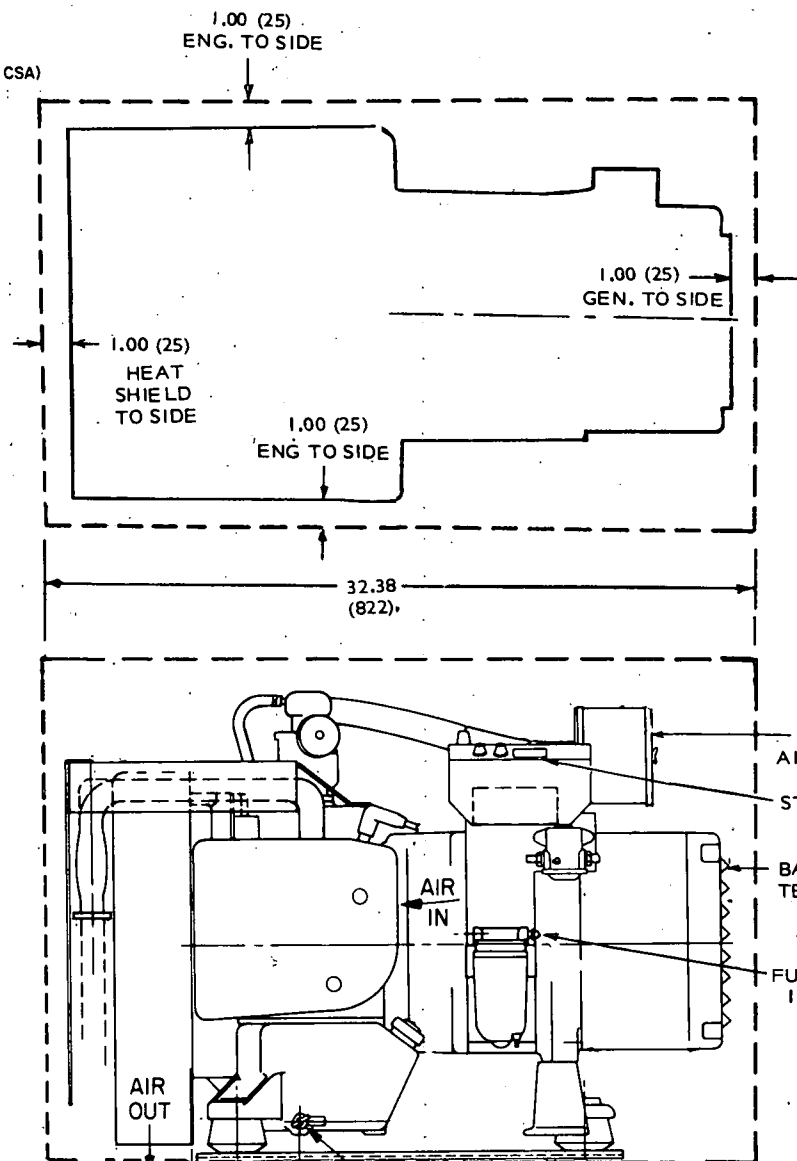
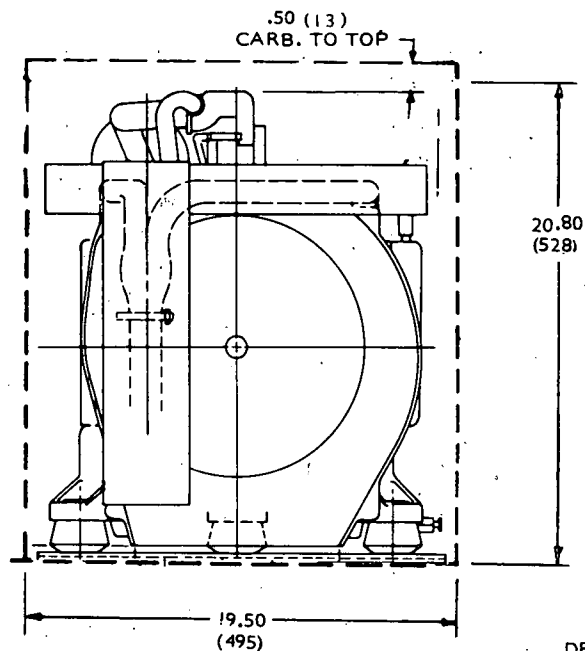
The best protection against carbon monoxide inhalation is a regular inspection of the complete exhaust system. If you notice a change in the sound or appearance of exhaust system, shut the unit down immediately and have it inspected and repaired at once by a competent mechanic.

FIGURE 1. TYPICAL INSTALLATION COMPARTMENT SIZE AND MINIMUM DIMENSIONS.



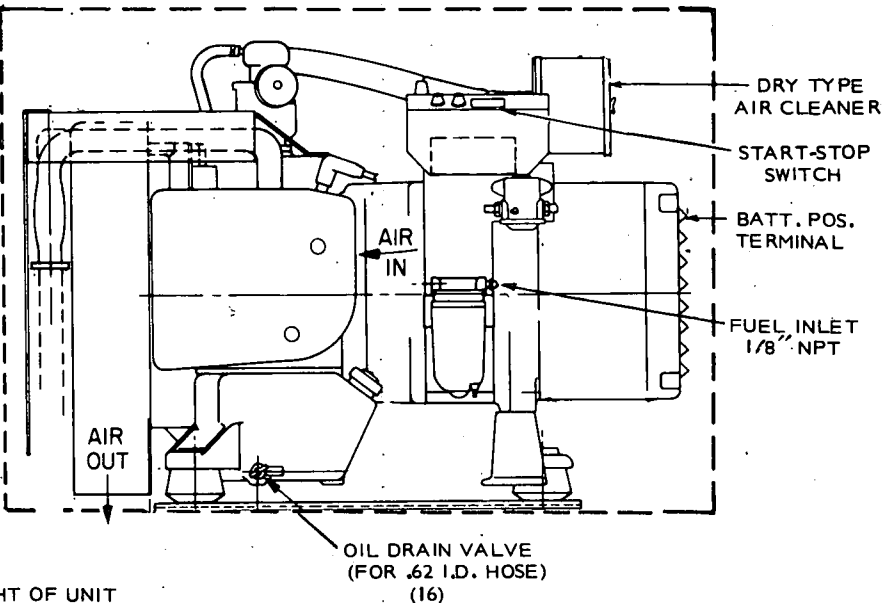
NOTES:

1. APPROX WEIGHT: 217 lbs  
MASS: 98 kg
2. DIMENSIONS IN ( ) ARE IN MILLIMETRES
3. A 1.00" (25) MIN CLEARANCE REQUIRED AROUND SET AND .50 (13) MIN ABOVE CARB TO COMPARTMENT WALLS OR SOUND INSULATION (SEE MTG DETAIL)



DRY WEIGHT OF UNIT  
-217 LBS. (131 kg)

DIMENSIONS IN INCHES.  
THOSE IN ( ) ARE MILLIMETRES.



# COMPARTMENT SIZE AND LOCATION

## COMPARTMENT SIZE AND LOCATION

Compartment location is determined largely by:

1. Physical size.
2. Access opening.
3. Mounting support—most important of all.

### Physical Size

The area in the vehicle for the electric generating set must be large enough for the compartment, with specified minimum clearance between the electric generating set and compartment walls or ceiling (and acoustical material, if used). See Figure 1.

### ACCESS OPENING

Plan the location for an access opening large enough to permit set removal. Compartment door should be designed for easy removal or for easy access for operator or service personal.

### MOUNTING SUPPORT

Because of compartment weight, the most desirable mounting location is between the main frame members of the recreational vehicle. However, this is seldom possible. Most common installations are on the side of the vehicle and most difficult to reinforce. One side of the compartment is fastened to the frame and the opposite side secured to the body. Compartment floor must be metal.

Channel, box or angle iron can be used for a compartment frame with a sheet metal cover.

### COMPARTMENT

1. Compartment or installation area must be separated from living quarters by a vapor-tight wall.
2. Line the compartment or separate from living quarters with a fire barrier of sheet metal or other noncombustible material. The compartment can also be readily sealed and lends itself easily to sound or acoustical treatment.

#### WARNING

Do not use flammable material directly above or around the electric generating set compartment. Heat transferred through the sheet metal compartment structure or other material can be HOT enough to discolor, char or ignite fiberboard, seat cushions, etc. Use of asbestos or other noncombustible temperature insulating material in high temperature areas may be necessary.

3. See Figure 1 for minimum clearances and compartment size.

4. DO NOT use absorbent sound proofing material on compartment floor. The floor should have minimal openings to reduce entrance of road dirt. Compartment floor must be so constructed as to prevent accumulation of oil, fuel or water in any corner. Drainage can be accomplished through the use of a 1/2" diameter hole near each corner or other suitable means.

#### WARNING

Be sure hole is not directly above muffler to prevent fire hazard.

Equip base with an oil drain hole to outside of compartment. It is recommended that the recreational vehicle manufacturer provide a raised edge or collar around exhaust pipe outlet to prevent gasoline leakage onto exhaust system to meet requirements of CSA #946.

### MOUNTING

Before actual mounting of the electric generating set takes place, read this entire manual. Additional allowances should be made to allow easy access to the oil fill, drain and oil dip stick as well as the air cleaner element for service purposes.

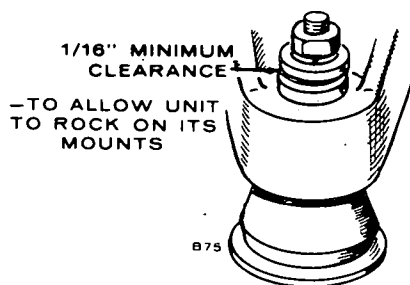


FIGURE 2. VIBRATION ISOLATORS

### VIBRATION ISOLATORS

Rubber vibration isolators are furnished with all Onan recreational vehicle models.

#### CAUTION

Use only the vibration isolators provided with the electric generating set, as they are designed to support unit's weight.

1. Onan mounts are a "through bolt" type which prevent the set from breaking loose if they are damaged.
2. Vibration isolators of the type shown (with snubbing washers) in Figure 2 must be installed properly to minimize vibration. Leave 1/16-inch minimum clearance between the snubbing washers as shown in Figure 2.



# VENTILATION AND ACOUSTICS

The most important factors of ventilation for an air-cooled mobile electric generating set are sufficient incoming cooling air and exhausting heated air. Before considering the installation problems, knowledge of how an Onan unit cools itself is needed.

## VACU-FLO COOLING

All Onan electric generating sets for recreational vehicles use Vacu-Flo cooling, a centrifugal fan in a scroll housing on the engine end (Figure 3).

1. It draws air from the generator end of the compartment, through the generator and over the cooling surfaces of the engine, then discharges the heated air out through the Vacu-Flo discharge opening.
2. All standard sets for recreational vehicles have the Vacu-Flo scroll positioned downward. Be sure nothing obstructs or restricts discharged airflow.

### WARNING

gases.

Never use discharged cooling air for heating since it can contain poisonous

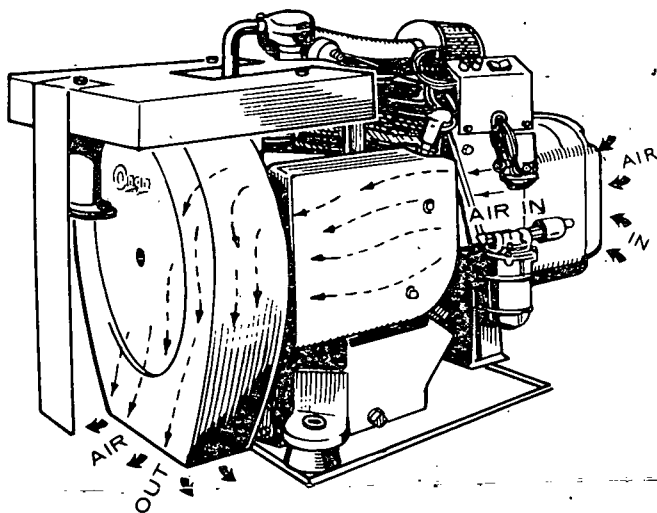


FIGURE 3. TYPICAL ONAN MOBILE COOLING SYSTEM

Allow for ducts or obstructions of airflow. Position of the air openings must permit airflow while the unit is running to purge the compartment of heated air. But on shutdown, the openings must allow for convection cooling of the compartment for heated air to escape.

## AIR REQUIREMENTS

Cooling air requirements for Onan electric generating sets vary with type and size. Special equipment is needed to measure it. Since the discharge area can't be changed, air inlet opening is *critical*! The 4.0 kW BF running at 1800 rpm requires a minimum free air inlet area of 85 square inches with no restrictions and the air discharge is 480 cubic feet per minute.

The Onan UL tested air cleaner element is specifically designed to meet the combustion air requirements of the 4.0BF. This element should be replaced each 200 hours of operation and more often in extremely dusty conditions.

## RESTRICTED AIR OPENINGS

Sheet metal with louvers can be used over inlet areas. However, some provide only 60 percent free inlet area per square foot. Even the most efficient grille only provides about 90 percent free inlet area per square foot. The free inlet area of the material can be obtained from the manufacturer. Calculate the inlet area needed using the following information as a guide. See Figure 4.

Unrestricted air inlet requirements for this set is 85 square inches. The 85 square inches should be divided by the percent (%) of free air of the proposed louver to determine necessary surface area for this set.

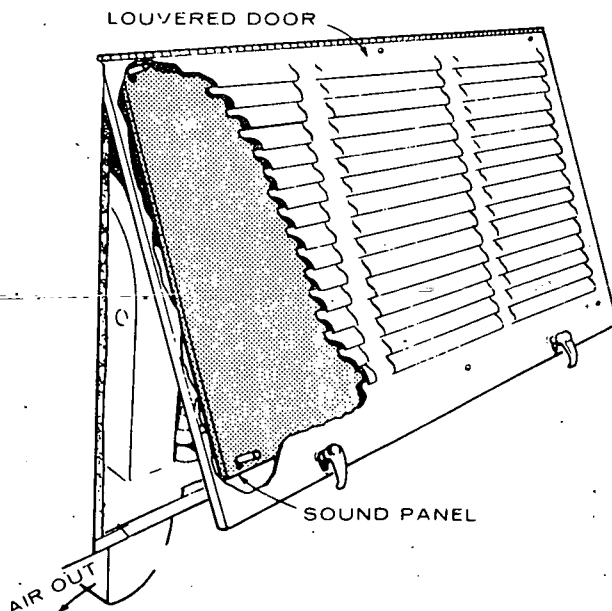


FIGURE 4. TYPICAL LOUVERED DOOR AIR INLET

## COMPARTMENT ACOUSTICAL LINING

1. Be sure all joints and corners of the compartment are vapor tight to coach interior before lining with acoustical material.

Lining the compartment does little if opening, cracks, door and joints are not sealed. Also make sure compartment door edge is sealed to eliminate noise-air leaks around the door perimeter.

2. Cover the sound reflective surfaces, back, top and sides (not compartment base) with fiberglass or other noncombustible acoustical material. It should be no less than one inch thick and approximately two pounds per square foot in density. Be sure adhesive used is also noncombustible. Test acoustical material and adhesive for heat effects before using.

3. Rather than using one single material of two pound per square foot density, a combination of materials can reduce noise even more. For example, a sheet of lead or viscoelastic material of one-half to one pound per square foot density and a layer of one inch acoustical material of two pound per square foot density, respectively, is far more superior.
4. To prevent line of sight noise, a sound panel (baffle) may be added behind louvered air inlet. The panel must be spaced to allow for minimum free air inlet of 85 square inches. See Figure 4.

**WARNING** Separate installation area or compartment from living quarters by a vapor-tight wall to prevent entrance of noxious fumes to interior.

**WARNING** Insulation must not reduce the minimum clearances as specified in Figure 1 to meet ANSI 198.1 and CSA #946 temperature rise requirements for recreational vehicles.

# FUEL SYSTEM

## RECOMMENDED FUEL

All Onan AC electric generating sets for recreational vehicles use gasoline fuel. Because AC electric generating sets run at a constant speed, lead deposits tend to build up in the combustion chambers. For this reason, use clean, fresh, lead free or low-lead gasoline. Regular grade gasoline may also be used, but DO NOT use highly leaded premium types of fuel.

For new engines, the most satisfactory results are obtained by using nonleaded gasoline. For older engines that have previously used leaded gasoline, the cylinder heads must be taken off and all lead deposits removed from engine before switching to nonleaded gasoline.

### CAUTION

Lead deposits must be removed from an engine before switching from leaded to non-leaded gasoline. If not, preignition can occur causing engine damage.

### WARNING

Leakage of gasoline in or around the compartment is a serious fire hazard. The ventilation system should provide a constant flow of air to expel any accumulation of fuel vapor while the vehicle is in transit. Compartments must be vapor tight to the interior to keep fumes from within the vehicle.

## FUEL CONSUMPTION

It should be noted that under varying electrical loads, fuel consumption of engines for recreational vehicle generator sets varies accordingly. Average fuel consumption at rated 60 Hz load is 0.88 gallons per hour.

## FUEL LINES AND FUEL FILTERS

### Fuel Lines

1. Most electric generating set installations are designed to share the vehicle fuel supply tank with the vehicle engine. All connections to vehicle fuel system must be in accordance with chassis (vehicle) manufacturers' detailed installation instructions.

2. Use seamless steel tubing and flared connections.

3. Run fuel lines at the top level of tank to a point as close to the engine as possible to reduce danger of fuel siphoning out of tank if the line should break.

4. Keep fuel lines away from hot engine or exhaust areas. This reduces chance of vapor lock.

5. Install an approved flexible nonmetallic and non-organic fuel line between the solid fuel line and engine to absorb vibration.

6. Flexible line must be long enough to allow for 4" of set movement to prevent binding, stretching or breaking because of set movement.

7. Install lines so they are accessible and protected from damage.

8. Use metal straps without sharp edges to secure the fuel lines.

9. Do not run fuel line in conjunction with electrical wiring

## Fuel Filters

Onan electric generating sets with electric fuel pumps have phenolic or screen filters within the fuel pump itself. Additional filters in the fuel line are unnecessary unless unusual operating conditions exist.

## FUEL SOLENOID

The positive fuel shutoff valve prevents flooding of the generator set, when not in use, should the vehicle fuel tank become pressurized.

Operating the generator set from a tee in the main fuel line can cause erratic operation when vehicle is operated at highway speeds. The set's fuel pump has neither the capacity nor the power to overcome the draw of vehicle engine fuel pump.

## GASOLINE EVAPORATIVE CONTROL SYSTEMS

With the increasing emphasis on pollution controls, certain states are now requiring strict evaporative controls on vehicle gasoline supply systems. Manufacturers of RV chassis and vehicles in general have complied to new regulations for these areas by using special design gas tanks, filler tubes, filler gas caps and interconnecting vapor tubing from the vehicle gas tank through a special canister to the vehicle engine.

Because these systems are designed to operate in a critical pressure range, it is very important during connection of an electric generating set and building of the motor home, etc., the vehicle manufacturer's fuel supply design not be altered. The filler tube, fill limiter vent, canister, vapor lines and gas fill cap should not be changed, removed or replaced unless receiving recommendations and approval from the vehicle manufacturer. If not, serious vehicle engine and generator set operating conditions could result.

Always check the filler gas cap to make sure it has a pressure and vacuum relief valve. Also check to make sure it works.

If operating problems develop due to the fuel system, check the fill cap to make sure the vacuum and pressure relief valve is working properly.

Because various designs of such systems exist, Figure 5 shows a typical gasoline evaporative control system. By checking the vehicle chassis for a canister, vapor lines, etc., you should be able to identify whether or not it has an evaporative control system.

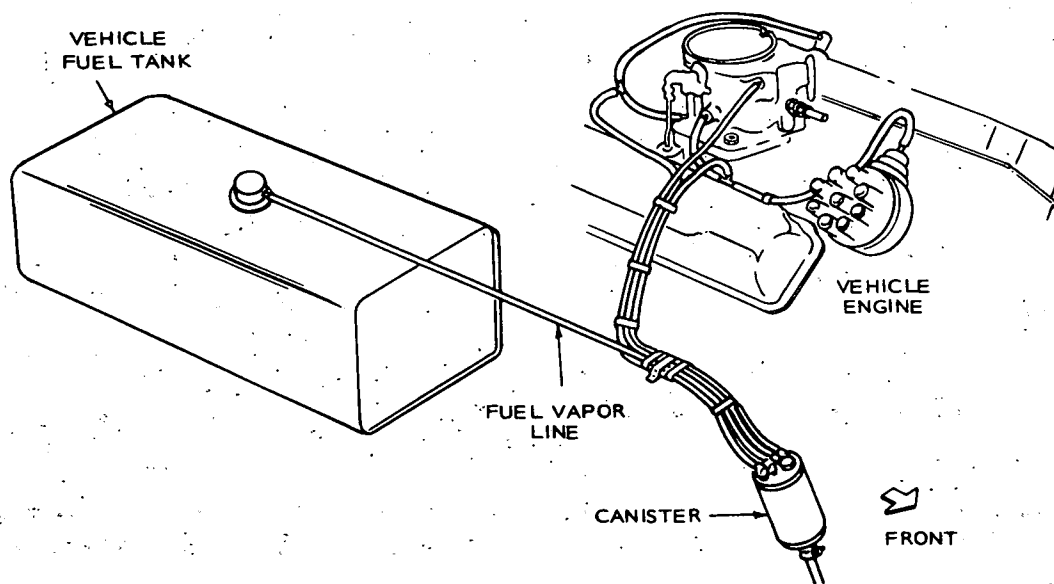


FIGURE 5. TYPICAL EVAPORATIVE CONTROL SYSTEM.

# EXHAUST SYSTEM

Plan each individual exhaust system carefully. A proper installation is not only gas tight, but usually quieter, too. Be sure to check all applicable recreational vehicle standards, local codes and regulations.

## WARNING

Plan the exhaust system carefully. Exhaust gases are deadly!

## CAUTION

Do not connect the electric generating set exhaust to the vehicle exhaust system. Water vapor from one engine can damage the other engine.

1. Where the exhaust system passes through the base or floor, leave adequate clearance as protection against exhaust pipe damage from vibration (Figure 6). The metal around the hole should be turned up or some type of collar used to prevent gas or oil from draining onto hot exhaust parts.
2. The exhaust system must not raise the temperature of any combustible material by more than 117° F (65° C) above the ambient air inlet temperature. See minimum clearances on page 5.

**IMPORTANT:** Certain states (particularly California) have state ordinances pertaining to the type and usage of exhaust muffler/spark arresters on internal combustion engines or engine driven equipment when used in a recreational vehicle such as electric generating sets. Be sure your installation meets all Federal, State and local codes pertaining to your unit. Failure to provide and maintain a spark arrester may be in violation of the law.

## WARNING

All exhaust shielding supplied with unit **MUST** be properly installed to prevent overheating of compartment walls or the possibility of fire.

3. The exhaust system must terminate aft of the electric generating set compartment and extend to the perimeter of vehicle.

## WARNING

Do not terminate exhaust under vehicle, as carbon monoxide gas is poisonous. Direct exhaust gases away from window and door openings.

4. Exhaust pipe must terminate a minimum of three feet from the vehicle gasoline filler spout (more distance if required by local codes).
5. Use automotive type tail pipe hangers for hanging the exhaust system from vehicle undercarriage.

## CAUTION

If tail pipe deflector is used, be sure it is large enough to prevent excessive back pressure.

## EXHAUST SPARK ARRESTERS

Exhaust spark arresters are necessary for **SAFE OPERATION**. All require periodic clean-out (every 50 to 100 operating hours) to maintain maximum efficiency. Some state and federal parks require them. To clean spark arrester, remove pipe plug in bottom of muffler. Run set for 5 minutes. Replace plug.

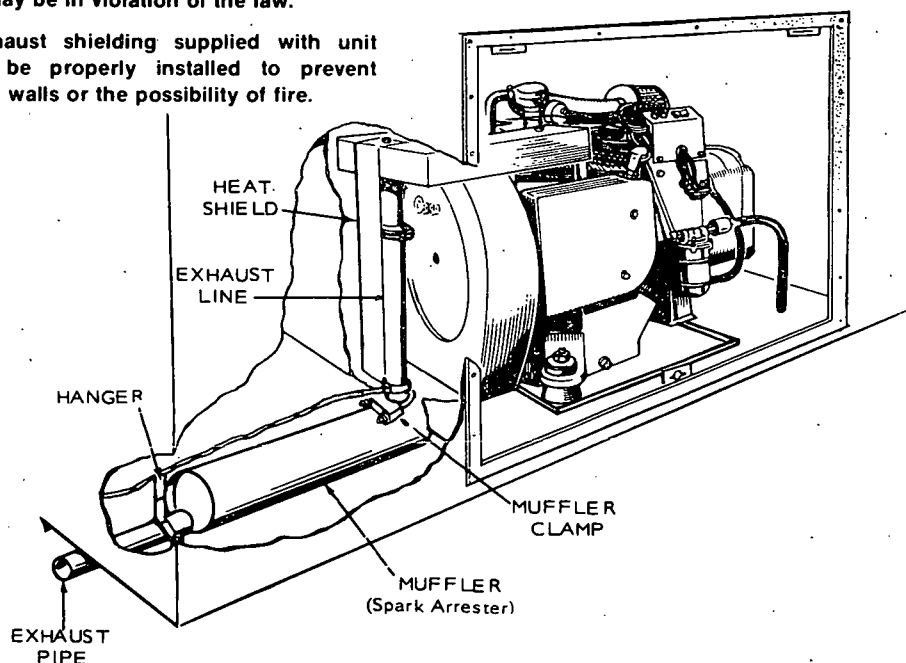


FIGURE 6. TYPICAL EXHAUST SYSTEM INSTALLATION

## **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF EXHAUST ACCESSORY KIT**

These exhaust shields and components **MUST** be properly installed to maintain the generator compartment temperature rise requirements within the limits of ANSI A 198.1 and CSA Electrical Bulletin #946 regulations and for proper operation of the generator set. The exhaust system must **NOT** raise the temperature of any combustible material by more than 117° F (65° C) above the ambient air inlet temperature. Proceed as follows:

1. After set is completely installed in generator set compartment, install the exhaust down pipe and secure with 5/16-18 bolts, nuts and washers supplied. Be sure to install asbestos gasket between exhaust manifold flanges to prevent leaks.
2. Install downpipe shield in place by engaging tab (on inside of shield) in the clamp (already positioned on downpipe) between the locking screw and the clamp. Tighten clamp locking screw securely.
3. Install and tighten top 5/16 bolt securely.
4. Recheck and tighten any loose bolts. If downpipe shield is loose, adjust clamp on downpipe and tighten securely.
5. Install and connect the muffler to the downpipe on underside of compartment floor using hanger bracket and u-bolt supplied. Tighten all connections securely.
6. Run the generator set for five minutes and check exhaust system (visually and audibly) for leaks or excessive noise.
7. Clean spark arrestor muffler every 100 hours of operation. Remove 1/8" pipe plug in bottom of muffler and run set for 5 minutes. Then replace pipe plug. Check exhaust system (visually and audibly) for leaks daily (at least every 8 hours of running time).

# ELECTRICAL LOADS AND CONNECTIONS

All of the following description pertains to alternating current Onan electric generating sets for recreational vehicles.

1. All wiring must meet applicable local electrical codes. Have a qualified electrician install and inspect the wiring.
2. Wires must be adequate size, properly insulated and supported in an approved manner.
3. Mount switches and controls securely to prevent damage from vibration and road shocks. All switches must be vibration-proof to prevent accidental opening or closing while the vehicle is in motion.
4. Install an approved junction box for feeder conductors from the electric generating set. It must have a blank cover and be inside compartment (not on set).

## **WARNING**

To prevent noxious gases from entering vehicle interior, seal any openings made in the set's compartment for conduit, wiring, etc.

## **WIRE TYPES**

Use multistrand wire which meets all applicable codes as feeder conductors, from electric generating set to compartment junction box. Many installers use multistrand wire throughout the vehicle to reduce the danger of breakage from vibration.

The conductors of the electric generating set shall have an ampacity not less than 115 percent of the nameplate current rating of the generator. Neutral conductors shall be the same size as the conductors of the outside legs.

Supply conductors from the electric generating set to the junction box on the compartment wall must be installed in flexible conduit.

## **CAUTION**

Do not use solid metal conductors in compartment. They may develop metal fatigue from set movement and eventually break.

## **WARNING**

Because of fire hazard, do not tie electrical wiring to fuel line.

## **DISCONNECT SWITCH**

The feeder conductors from the set compartment must terminate in a double-pole, double-throw positive off switch device for 120 volt operation before the vehicle distribution panel. This assures the outside power source cannot be connected simultaneously with the electric generating set. For 120/240 volt operation, a 3-pole, double-throw,

positive off, switching device must be used. Neutral must be switched.

## **WARNING**

Use only approved power supply assemblies. Never remove grounding pin from power supply assembly. Incorrect or no ground may cause the recreational vehicle to be electrically "hot."

## **RECONNECTIBLE, SINGLE-PHASE GENERATOR**

Voltage selection on reconnectible single-phase generators is for use as 120/240 volts, 3 wire; or 120 volts, 2 wire. Use the connection for two wire service when used for motor starting such as air conditioning. Balance the load when connecting for three wire service. Current for any one output lead must not exceed nameplate rating. When two or more single-phase circuits are available, divide the load equally between them. See Figure 7.

## **STARTING CONTROLS**

Remote control Onan electric generating sets are designated by an "R" in the model number and allow the operator to start the set inside the vehicle, etc. See operator's manual for more specific information.

## **LOAD CONNECTIONS**

Generator set load wires M1, M2, M3 and M4 terminate within the junction box. Connect and join wires within junction box in an approved manner for desired voltage code. See Figure 7.

On motor homes which have provisions for using outside AC utility power (separate from the electric generating set) the neutral as well as the "Hot" lead MUST be completely isolated from the motor home when load or power is switched.

The operation of a typical transfer device is shown in Figure 8. In addition to the transfer device, an over current protection device (circuit breaker or fuse) shall be provided between the transfer device and the AC circuit in the motor home. The generator set field has inherent overload protection when any overload is applied; frequency will sag which causes output voltage to drop and in turn the generator set field drops to zero voltage. A ground fault circuit interrupter should be installed in the wiring system to protect all branch circuits.

### POWER REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLIANCES

Appliance or Tool	Approximate Running Wattage
Refrigerator .....	600-1000
Electric broom .....	200-500
Coffee percolator .....	550-700
Electric frying pan .....	1000-1350
Hair dryer .....	350-500
Electric stove (per element) .....	350-1000
Electric iron .....	500-1200
Radio .....	50-200
Electric water heater .....	1000-1500
Space heater .....	1000-1500
Electric blanket .....	50-200
Television .....	200-600
Electric drill .....	250-750
Battery charger .....	Up to 800
Electric water pump .....	500-600
Air Conditioner .....	1400-2200
Converter .....	300-350

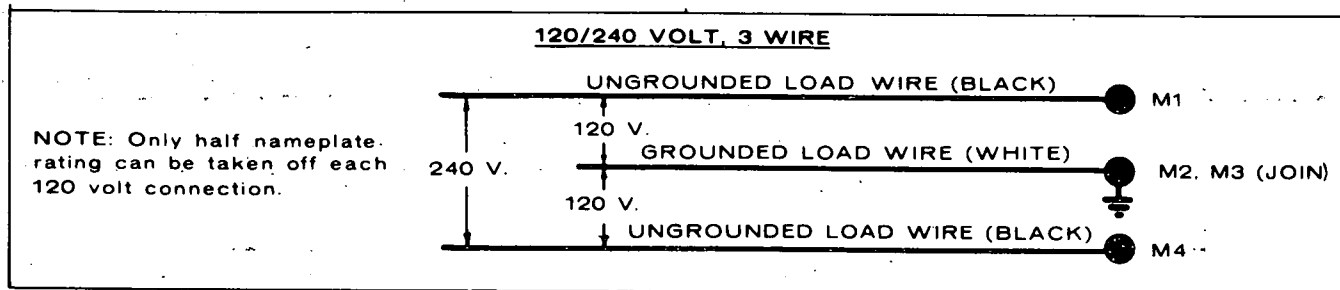
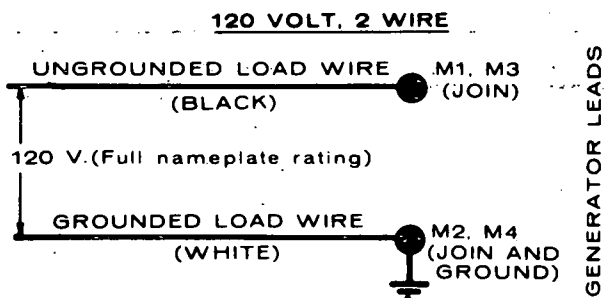
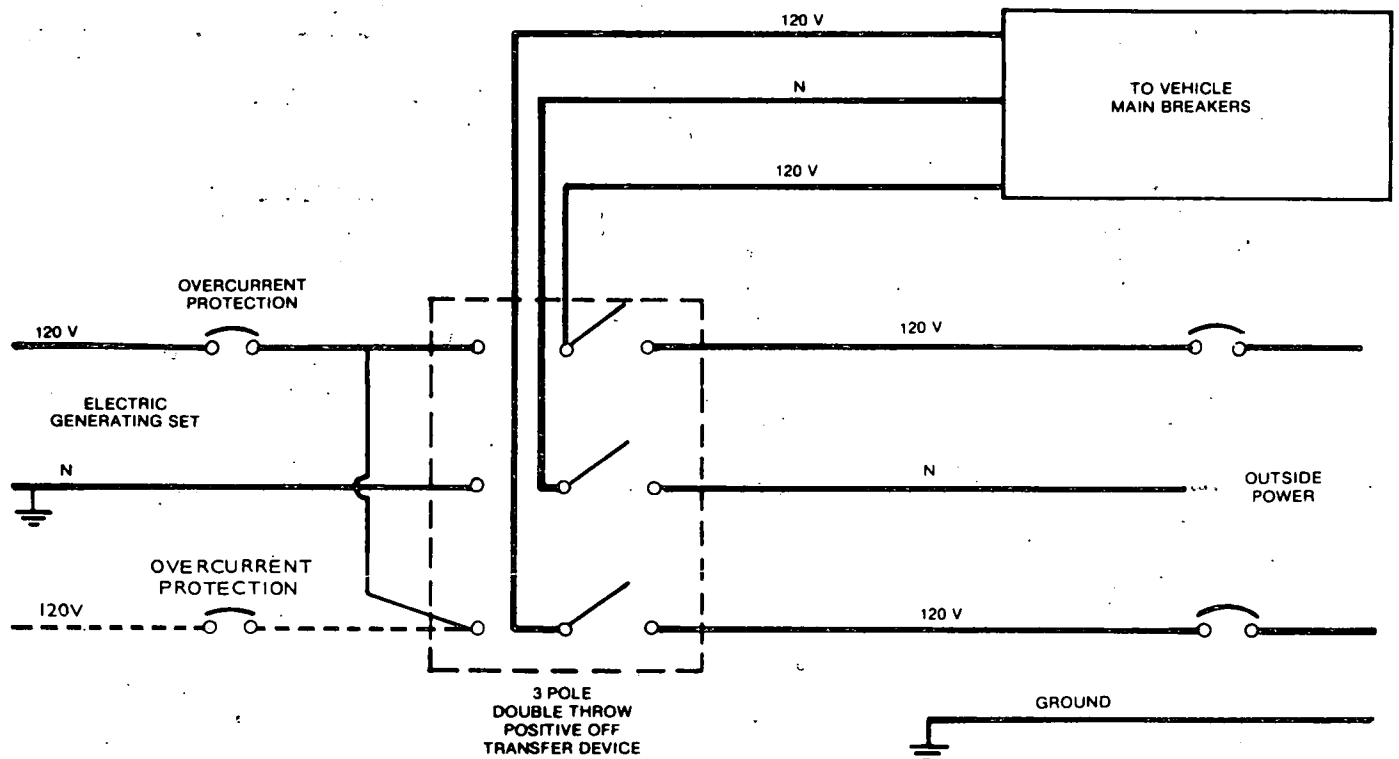
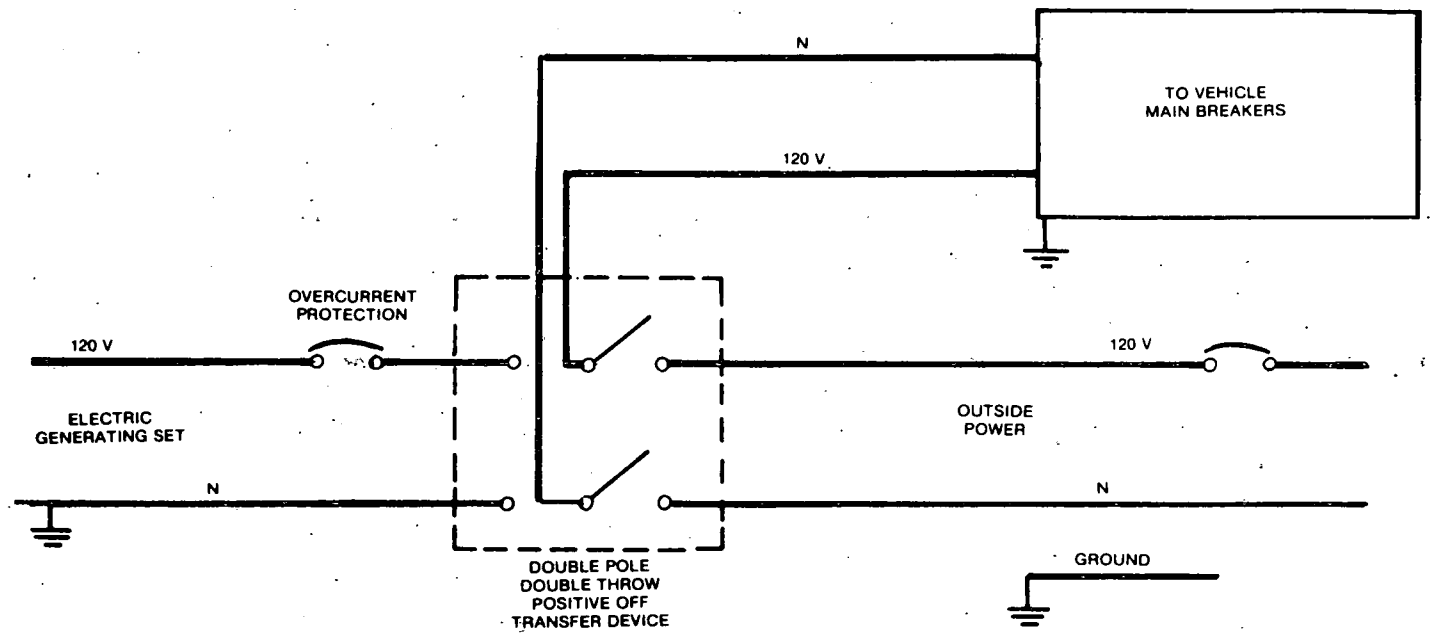


FIGURE 7. SINGLE-PHASE, "3C" VOLTAGE CODE GENERATOR CONNECTIONS





\*FOR 120/240 OPERATION DO NOT USE JUMPER. CONNECT OVERCURRENT PROTECTION AS SHOWN IN DASHED LINE. SEE RECONNECTION DIAGRAM FIGURE 7.

**FIGURE 8. SCHEMATIC OF TRANSFER DEVICE AND OVERLOAD PROTECTION**

# BATTERIES

## BATTERY CARE

To increase battery life, the operator can perform a number of routine checks and some preventive maintenance.

1. Keep the battery case clean and dry.
2. Make sure the battery cable connections are clean and tight. Use a terminal puller when removing cables for any reason.
3. Coat the battery terminals with a mineral grease or petroleum jelly to reduce corrosion and oxidation.
4. Identify each battery cable to be positive or negative before making any connection. Always connect the ground (negative) cable last.
5. Maintain the electrolyte level by adding water (drinking quality or better) as needed for filling to split level marker. (The water ingredient of the electrolyte evaporates, but the sulphuric acid ingredient remains. Therefore, add water, not electrolyte.)
6. Avoid overcharging when recharging. Stop the boost charge when the specific gravity is 1.260 and the electrolyte is 80°F (26.7°C).

**WARNING** Do NOT use unvented batteries with this generator set. Malfunction of the starting-charging system can produce high charging currents, causing excessive gassing. An unvented battery can build up sufficient pressure to explode.

## BATTERIES AND BATTERY CABLES

In order for the electric generating set to crank efficiently under various operating conditions, the battery and battery cables must be correctly chosen and installed. Before selecting a battery, be sure the installation area is compatible and properly designed. The compartment for the battery must provide:

1. Rigid mounting support.
2. A location where accidental acid spills or leaks won't damage set, battery cables, etc.
3. Provide a minimum of 2 square inches at top and 2 square inches at bottom of battery for ventilation purposes.
4. Battery cable entry points should be sealed (vapor tight) if they enter or pass through living area.

**WARNING** Mount the battery in a separate compartment from the set or any spark-producing device to prevent fire or explosion.

**CAUTION** Never disconnect the battery with either engine running and never crank both engines simultaneously.

## BATTERY CABLES

For reliable starting, voltage drop from the battery terminals to the exciter cranking windings of the generator should not exceed 0.12 volts per 100 amperes of break-away current. The battery cables in Table 1 will meet this condition if the grounding system is adequate. Connect the battery negative to ground with the same size cable as used for battery positive.

Be sure the frame connection (major frame member if possible) is sufficient to minimize resistance. Try to avoid a connection at a weld or mechanical joint.

For short distances, one negative battery cable can be used between set and battery rather than separate cables to chassis ground.

The 4.0BF draws 75-100 amperes of cranking current.

The break-away current is 300 to 400 amperes.

The charging current varies from 1-2 amperes depending on battery condition (state of charge).

For additional information on installation contact your Onan Service Representative or request *Technical Bulletin T-012* from Onan.

TABLE 1. BATTERY CABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

* CABLE LENGTH IN FEET (metres)	CABLE SIZE
0-10 (0-3)	2
11-15 (3-4.5)	0
16-20 (4.5-6)	000

\* - Distance from battery to set.

**WARNING** Do not disconnect battery cables from battery while generator set is cranking or running; sparks may cause an explosion.

## Battery Size

Onan recommends one 12-volt, 74 amp hour battery for all RV generator sets. In colder temperature applications (0° to 32° F), one 12-volt, 92 amp hour battery is recommended for all units. For sub-zero operation, Onan recommends one 12-volt, 105 amp or larger capacity battery.

# REMOTE ACCESSORIES

## INSTALLING STANDARD REMOTE CONTROL

This control includes a start-stop switch with an indicator lamp. Install as follows:

1. Select switch location. Using Figure 9 as a guide, drill screw holes and cut holes in RV panel.
2. Following national and local electrical codes and using four insulated wires of predetermined length (#18 or larger), connect remote switch to terminals on generator. See Figure 10.

**CAUTION** Ensure that leads from remote switch connect with corresponding terminals on generator terminal board.

**CAUTION** Don't route DC wires for remote control through conduit containing AC load wiring. Induced voltages may cause erratic operation.

3. Insert remote switch in hole cutout and secure with two #5 woodscrews supplied with switch.

**WARNING**

Seal all holes that might allow noxious gases from generator set into motor home.

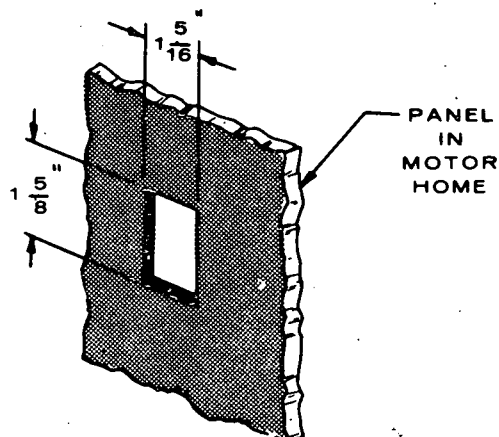


FIGURE 9. MOTOR HOME CUTOUT

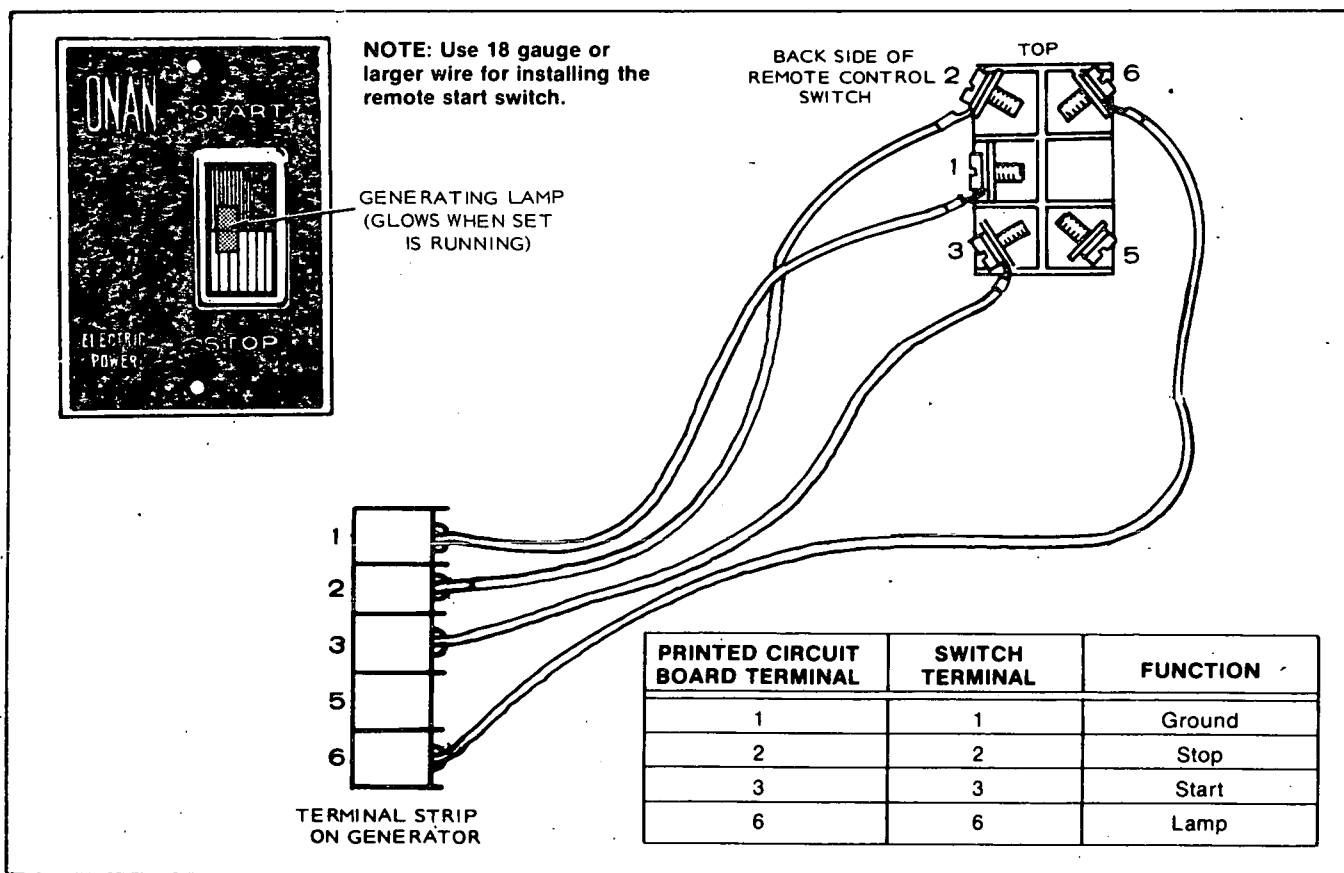


FIGURE 10. CONNECTING REMOTE CONTROL (300-0985)

## INSTALLING DELUXE REMOTE CONTROL

This control includes a start-stop switch with an indicator lamp, a running time meter and a battery condition meter. Install and connect as follows:

1. Select control location. Using Figure 11 as a guide, drill screw holes and cut hole to accommodate remote switch in panel.
2. Following national and local electrical codes and using five insulated wires of predetermined length (#18 or larger), connect remote control to terminals on generator. Ensure that leads from remote control connect to corresponding terminals on generator terminal board. See Figure 12.

**CAUTION** Don't route DC wires for remote control through conduit containing AC load wiring. Induced voltages may cause erratic operation.

3. Insert remote control in hole cutout and secure with two #5 woodscrews supplied with switch.

**WARNING** Seal all holes that might allow noxious gases to enter motor home.

**CAUTION** Ensure that leads from remote switch connect with corresponding terminals on generator terminal board.

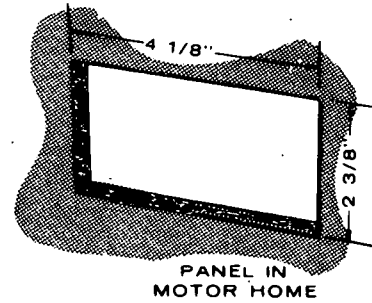


FIGURE 11. MOTOR HOME CUTOUT

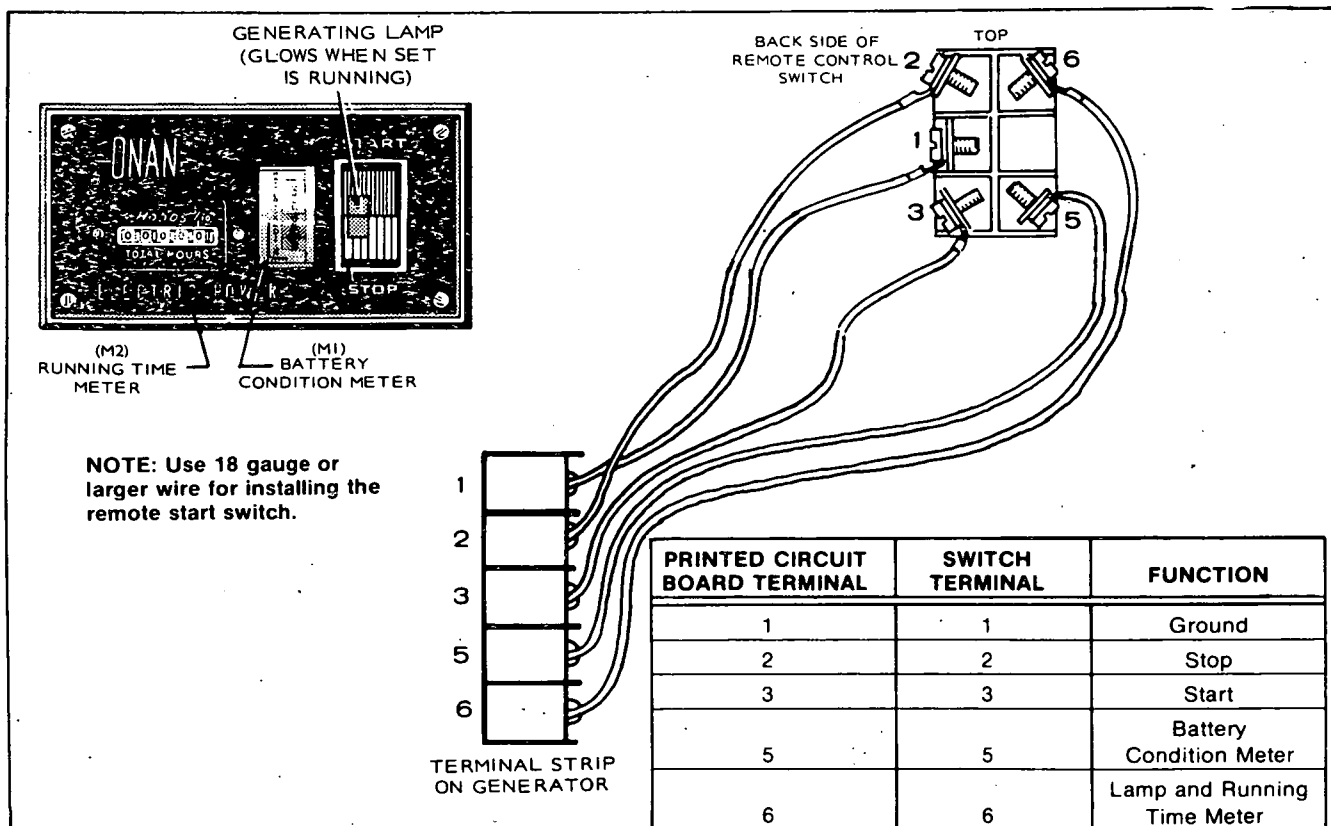


FIGURE 12. CONNECTING DELUXE REMOTE CONTROL (300-0986)

**Onan manufactures a complete line of electric power systems from 1 to 750 kW (generator sets • automatic transfer switches • industrial engines), gas-, gasoline- or diesel-driven. For standby power in homes, industrial plants, commercial buildings and institutions. For auxiliary or portable power in boats, recreational vehicles, service trucks and construction equipment.**

