



## Public Notice

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN  
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PLYMOUTH CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES

TO ACHIEVE THE REFERENCE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE SECTIONS HAVE BEEN ADDED AND/OR AMENDED.

**Chapter 18, Article XVI – Add new article and add sections 18-783 to 18-792**  
**Section 78-217 – Amendments to content**

**CHAPTER 18 – BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS**

**ARTICLE XVI. – EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL GENERATORS**

Sections 18-783. Installation and definition, 18-784. Permit required, 18-785. Final Inspection, 18-786. Enclosure; production of sounds; service doors; exhaust gases, 18-787. Fuels, 18-788. Electrical, 18-789. Maintenance, 18-790. Landscaping, 18-791- Use, 18-792. Appeals

**CHAPTER 78 - ZONING**

**ARTICLE XVIII. – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Sec. 78-217. Projections into setbacks

For Complete Ordinance Changes use the Following Link:  
[https://www.plymouthmi.gov/agenda\\_center](https://www.plymouthmi.gov/agenda_center)

Introduced: 3-4-2024  
Enacted: 3-18-2024  
Published: 4-3-2024  
Effective: 4-4-2024

## **CHAPTER 18 - BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS**

### **ARTICLE XVI. - EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL GENERATORS**

#### **Sec. 18-783. Installation and definition.**

Emergency generators may be permanently installed and utilized in all residential zoning districts within the city, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this article. This article regulates permanently installed emergency generators, defined as a generator that is intended to remain outside of a residence for a lengthy or continuous period of time, regardless of the length of time of any power outage, as opposed to portable generators.

#### **Sec. 18-784. Permit required.**

Permits shall be obtained from the city building department prior to the commencement of any construction or installation of a generator. Applicants shall submit copies of the following:

- (a) The application form and the permit fee determined by resolution of the city commission.
- (b) A dimensioned site plan indicating compliance with this section and the manufacturer's specifications.
- (c) The manufacturer's specifications/cut sheets for the generator, the ATS (automatic transfer switch) and any fuel storage tanks, showing listings from a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- (d) An electrical one line drawing showing locations of equipment, conduit, and wire sizes, and grounding/bonding.

#### **Sec. 18-785. Final inspection.**

As soon as construction of a generator has been completed, a final inspection shall be requested by the applicant to ensure compliance with all terms and conditions of this article, and the generator shall not be used prior to receiving final inspection approval.

#### **Sec. 18-786. Enclosure; production of sounds; service doors; exhaust gases.**

- (a) The generating unit and muffler must be enclosed within a sound attenuated cabinet. The enclosure service doors on the cabinet must be locked to prevent access by unauthorized persons.
- (b) Sound produced at full load is to be less than 85 dBA as measured at any and all property lines.

#### **Sec. 18-787. Fuels.**

Acceptable fuels include natural gas, gasoline or diesel. Connections made to a natural gas line of a residence must be in accordance with all applicable codes. Other fuel sources must meet all state and local code requirements. Portable fuel sources are not permitted.

#### **Sec. 18-788. Electrical.**

Only a fully automatic transfer switch (ATS) gear (double throw disconnect switch gear) is to be installed. Transfer panels must be locked to prevent unauthorized access to the switch gear. Panels must be approved by a recognized certification agency, such as UL or CSA, and must comply with all applicable electrical requirements adopted by the State of Michigan and City of Plymouth.

#### **Sec. 18-789. Maintenance.**

Property owners are responsible for keeping the electrical installation and operation within all applicable code and ordinance requirements. Automatic maintenance exercise testing is limited to not more than ten minutes each week, Monday—Friday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

#### **Sec. 18-790. Landscaping.**

All generator(s) shall be opaquely screened from adjacent properties and public ways with landscaping or fencing as approved by the building department. Appropriate landscaping must be installed around a generator unit to screen the unit and to assist in muffling or reducing sound levels.

#### **Sec. 18-791. Use.**

Generators are to be used only in emergencies where the normal power source to the residence has been disrupted. As soon as normal power has been restored, the owner shall cease operation of the generator.

#### **Sec. 18-792. Appeals.**

Appeals to this article may be taken to the zoning board of appeals. Such appeal shall be taken by applying with the zoning board of appeals on appropriate forms provided by the community development department and payment of the required fee.

## CHAPTER 78 - ZONING

### ARTICLE XVIII. – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Sec. 78-217. Projections into setbacks.

Projections into setbacks shall be permitted as follows:

Projection...	...Into Front Yard Setback	...Into Side Yard Setback	...Into Rear Yard Setback
<i>At or Below Grade:</i>			
Egress window/areaway recess*	Not permitted	3 feet from face of structure (interior dimension)	3 feet from face of structure (interior dimension)
Stairs from basement	Not permitted	Not permitted	4 feet (interior dimension)
Patios	4 feet, but no closer than 10 feet from the front property line	Not permitted	10 feet from property line
<i>Above Grade but Below Roof:</i>			
Air conditioning condensers	Not permitted	4 feet	4 feet
Architectural features, as defined	4 inches	4 inches	4 inches
Awning/canopy	3 feet	Not permitted	3 feet
Balcony	4 feet	Not permitted	4 feet
Bay window (limited to 8 feet in width; maximum 2 per side)	2 feet	Not permitted	2 feet
Cantilevered floor area (Box Out)	2 feet	Not permitted	2 feet
Cellar door	Not permitted	Not permitted	8 feet
Chimney (limited to 8 feet in width)	1 foot	Not permitted	1 foot
Deck**	Not permitted	Not permitted	12 feet, but limited to three feet high
Generators	Not permitted	Not permitted***	10 feet from property line
Porch, uncovered	6 feet	Not permitted	12 feet, but limited to three feet high
Porte cochere (excluding gutters)	Not permitted	2 feet from property line	Not permitted
<i>Roof Area:</i>			
Cornices, eaves, overhangs, brackets, soffits (excluding gutters)	2 feet	2 feet	2 feet
Dormers	<sup>1</sup> Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted

\*Areaway construction can project above grade no more than 12 inches.

\*\*The portion of a deck which occupies the rear yard setback shall not be converted into any enclosed habitable spaces.

\*\*\* Generators may project up to 4 feet into the side yard setback only if one or more of the following conditions are met, as determined by the community development director:

1. The location of windows and/or doors on the rear exterior wall do not provide the clearance dimension required by the adopted mechanical code.
2. The location of trees with a 12-inch DBH or greater do not provide reasonable placement on or near the rear exterior wall.
3. The location of built structures and mechanical equipment such as but not limited to egress windows, exterior or basement stairs, air conditioning condensers, cellar door, chimneys, decks, terraces, pools, porches, do not provide reasonable placement on or near the rear exterior wall. The location of the gas meter shall not be considered mechanical equipment.

- (1) Projections containing floor area, including decks, shall be included in the lot coverage calculation. See Sections 78-43 and 78-53 for the front porch exclusion from lot coverage.