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Champion Power Equipment 12500

Champion Power Equipment 12,500-Watt Tri Fuel Portable Generator User Manual

Model: 12500

1. Introduction and Product Overview

This manual provides essential information for the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Champion Power Equipment 12,500-Watt Electric Start Tri Fuel Portable Generator. This generator is designed to provide reliable power for home backup, job sites, or recreational use, offering versatility with gasoline, propane, and natural gas fuel options.

The included 50-Amp Manual Transfer Switch and power cord facilitate seamless integration with your home electrical system for backup power applications. The CO Shield technology enhances safety by automatically shutting down the generator if dangerous levels of carbon monoxide are detected.



Image 1.1: The Champion 12,500-Watt Tri Fuel Portable Generator (top) and the included 50-Amp Manual Transfer Switch with power cord and outdoor receptacle (bottom). The generator features a yellow and black frame, control panel with outlets, and wheels for portability. The transfer switch is a grey box with circuit breakers, designed for home electrical integration.

2. Safety Information

WARNING: Read and understand all safety precautions before operating this generator. Failure to follow these instructions can result in serious injury or death.

2.1 Carbon Monoxide Hazard

- Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.

- NEVER operate the generator inside any building, garage, shed, or other enclosed space, even if doors and windows are open.
- Operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated area, far away from windows, doors, and vents.
- The integrated CO Shield system is an additional safety measure but does not replace safe operating practices.

2.2 Electrical Safety

- NEVER operate the generator in wet conditions, such as rain or snow.
- Ensure the generator is properly grounded.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Use only approved extension cords that are rated for outdoor use and the appropriate amperage.
- When connecting to a home electrical system, use the included 50-Amp Manual Transfer Switch and have it installed by a qualified electrician.

2.3 Fuel Safety

- Gasoline is highly flammable. Store fuel in approved containers in a well-ventilated area.
- Do not refuel a hot or running engine. Allow the generator to cool before adding fuel.
- Propane (LPG) is also flammable. Ensure all connections are tight and leak-free.
- Natural Gas (NG) requires a dedicated connection and proper pressure.

3. Components and Controls

3.1 Generator Components

- **Engine:** 4-stroke engine, providing 12.5 kW maximum power.
- **Fuel Tank:** 7-gallon capacity for gasoline.
- **Control Panel:** Houses outlets, circuit breakers, and engine controls.
- **Wheels and Handle:** For portability.
- **Battery:** For electric start.

3.2 Control Panel Overview

The control panel provides access to all operational controls and outlets.

- **Engine Switch:** Used to start and stop the engine. Features an electric start function.
- **Fuel Selector Switch:** Allows selection between gasoline, propane, and natural gas.
- **Outlets:** Includes various AC outlets for connecting electrical devices.
- **Circuit Breakers:** Protect the generator from overload.
- **IntelliGauge:** Digital display showing voltage, frequency, and operating hours.
- **CO Shield Indicator:** Light indicating CO Shield status.

4. Setup

4.1 Unpacking and Assembly

1. Carefully remove the generator and all components from the packaging.
2. Attach the wheels and support feet as per the assembly instructions provided in the separate quick start guide.
3. Install the handle kit.

4.2 Adding Engine Oil

The generator is shipped without engine oil. It is crucial to add the correct type and amount of oil before first use.

1. Place the generator on a level surface.
2. Remove the oil fill cap/dipstick.
3. Add approximately 1.2 quarts (1.1 liters) of 10W-30 engine oil. Do not overfill.
4. Replace the oil fill cap/dipstick and tighten securely.

4.3 Fuel Connection

This generator supports gasoline, propane, and natural gas. Choose one fuel type for operation.

- **Gasoline:** Fill the fuel tank with fresh, unleaded gasoline (minimum 87 octane). Do not overfill.
- **Propane (LPG):** Connect a standard 20 lb. (or larger) propane cylinder to the generator's propane inlet using the provided hose and regulator. Ensure all connections are tight.
- **Natural Gas (NG):** Connect to a natural gas supply line using the appropriate adapter and hose. Consult a qualified professional for natural gas connections.

4.4 Battery Connection

Connect the battery cables to the battery terminals. Ensure positive (+) to positive and negative (-) to negative connections are secure.

5. Operating Instructions

5.1 Pre-Start Checklist

- Ensure the generator is on a level surface outdoors, away from structures.
- Check engine oil level.
- Ensure adequate fuel supply (gasoline, propane, or natural gas).
- Confirm all circuit breakers are in the OFF position.
- Disconnect all electrical loads from the generator outlets.

5.2 Starting the Generator (Electric Start)

1. Select the desired fuel type using the fuel selector switch.
2. Turn the engine switch to the 'START' position and hold for a few seconds until the engine starts.
3. Once the engine starts, release the switch to the 'RUN' position.

4. Allow the generator to warm up for a few minutes before connecting loads.

5.3 Connecting Electrical Loads

1. Once the generator is running smoothly, switch the circuit breakers to the 'ON' position.
2. Plug in your electrical devices or connect the transfer switch power cord.
3. Do not exceed the generator's rated running wattage (12,500 watts).

5.4 Stopping the Generator

1. Disconnect all electrical loads from the generator.
2. Turn all circuit breakers to the 'OFF' position.
3. Turn the engine switch to the 'OFF' position.
4. If using propane, close the valve on the propane cylinder.

5.5 Using the 50-Amp Manual Transfer Switch

The 50-Amp Manual Transfer Switch allows you to safely connect the generator to your home's electrical panel. This must be installed by a qualified electrician.

1. Ensure the main utility power is OFF at your home's main breaker.
2. Connect the provided power cord from the generator's 50A outlet to the outdoor receptacle of the transfer switch.
3. Start the generator as per section 5.2.
4. Flip the appropriate circuit breakers on the transfer switch to the 'GENERATOR' position to power selected circuits in your home.
5. To return to utility power, reverse the process: turn off generator breakers, shut down generator, disconnect power cord, then restore utility power.

6. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the life of your generator.

6.1 Maintenance Schedule

Service Item	Frequency
Check Engine Oil Level	Before each use
Change Engine Oil	First 5 hours, then every 50 hours or annually
Clean Air Filter	Every 50 hours or annually (more often in dusty conditions)
Check Spark Plug	Every 100 hours or annually
Clean Fuel Filter	Every 100 hours or annually
Check Valve Clearance	Every 200 hours or annually (professional service recommended)

6.2 Storage

For extended storage (over 30 days), perform the following steps:

1. Drain the gasoline fuel tank and carburetor. Run the engine until it stops from lack of fuel.
2. If using propane, disconnect the propane cylinder.
3. Change the engine oil.
4. Remove the spark plug and pour a small amount of engine oil into the cylinder. Crank the engine a few times to distribute the oil, then reinstall the spark plug.
5. Clean the generator exterior.
6. Store in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area.

7. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine will not start	No fuel; Low oil; Spark plug issue; Battery dead	Add fuel; Add oil; Check/replace spark plug; Charge/replace battery
No power output	Circuit breaker tripped; Overload; Faulty outlet	Reset breaker; Reduce load; Test outlets
Engine runs rough	Stale fuel; Clogged air filter; Dirty spark plug	Drain/replace fuel; Clean/replace air filter; Clean/replace spark plug
CO Shield shutdown	High CO levels detected	Move generator to open, well-ventilated area; Allow to clear before restarting

8. Specifications

Attribute	Value
Brand	Champion Power Equipment
Model Number	12500
Starting Wattage	12,500 Watts
Running Wattage	12,500 Watts
Fuel Type	Gasoline, Propane, Diesel (Tri Fuel)
Engine Type	4 Stroke
Ignition System	Electric Start
Voltage	120 Volts (AC)

Attribute	Value
Gasoline Tank Volume	7 Gallons
Runtime (Gasoline)	Up to 10 hours
Included Components	Power Cord, 50-Amp Manual Transfer Switch, CO Shield, Tri Fuel Adapters

9. Warranty and Support

Champion Power Equipment products are backed by a limited warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product for specific terms and conditions, including warranty period and coverage details.
For technical assistance, parts, or warranty claims, please contact Champion Power Equipment customer support. Have your model number and serial number ready when contacting support.
Visit the official Champion Power Equipment website for the most up-to-date support information and resources.

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