



BATTERY BACKUP FAQs Related to California Battery Backup Law

As of July 1, 2019, California Bill SB-969 mandates that any automatic garage door opener installed or replaced in a residential application must have a battery backup. In addition, if a new garage door installed, it is a violation of SB-969 to connect an existing opener that does not have the battery backup feature. The Genie Company developed these FAQs to help address some common questions in relation to our openers.

Q1: How much does a battery backup (BBU) add to the cost of the opener?

A: It depends on which opener you are choosing to use in your application. Genie offers the most complete line of openers in the industry and the capabilities and power output vary between them. Openers that require more power output, like our 140V opener, will require a larger and more expensive battery as opposed to our 24V opener.

Q2: If I purchase a new opener, will the battery come in the box?

A: If you purchase an opener that comes standard with a battery backup, then the battery unit will be included in the box. If the opener has the option to add a battery backup, then the battery will be in a separate box.

Q3: Is the battery backup replaceable?

A: Yes, the battery can easily be replaced.

Q4: Will a generic battery work?

A: It is not recommended to use any battery not provided by Genie.

Q5: Can a battery backup be added to older Genie openers?

A: This answer depends on which model you have. Models 2028, 2128, 1028 and 1128 cannot have a BBU added. However, many other Genie openers can be retrofitted with a BBU.

Q6: How long will the battery last?

A: This answer depends on a variety of factors. Environmental conditions such as extreme cold can reduce the life of the battery, and a battery used frequently will not last as long as one rarely used.

Q7: How do you know when to replace the battery backup?

A: There are (3) LED lights on each battery backup. If the green light is illuminated, the battery is fully charged and operational. If the yellow light is illuminated, the BBU is currently charging. If the light is red, the unit has failed to charge. If the red light remains illuminated for more than 48 hours, the battery needs replaced.

Q8: How many times will the battery backup operate the garage door?

A: The answer varies depending on factors such as the age of the battery, the weight of the door, and number of hours since the BBU was last fully charged. With optimum conditions, it is expected that within the first 24 hours of a power outage, the battery could operate the door up to 50 times.

Q9: Will the other garage door opener features work under battery power?

A: The opener's light will not function under battery power.

Q10: In the event of a power outage, will the operating speed of the opener change?

A: Yes, the speed will be reduced to conserve power.

Q11: If someone has more than one door on their garage, do they have to have a BBU on every door?

A: Yes, a battery backup will be needed for each garage door opener.

Q12: If someone purchased an opener before July 1, 2019, can it be installed after July 1, 2019?

A: No. After July 1, 2019, CA SB-969 prohibits openers without a BBU from being installed or replaced.

Q13: If my opener was installed before July 1, 2019, and is still under warranty but needs replaced, what then?

A: If an opener must be replaced in California, the new one must have a BBU attached. If the opener does not have a battery backup, the warranty will cover repair but the unit will need upgraded to a BBU capable unit. Or you can purchase a Genie BBU retrofit kit to bring it into compliance with CA SB-969.

Q14: Can I work on or service an opener with a battery backup still attached?

A: No. Before working on any opener, it should be disconnected from all sources of power which includes the battery backup unit.