

Tents and the Ontario Building Code

Tents less than 60m² in area:

- No building permit is required

Tents between 61m² and 225m² in area:

- Building permit is required
- Application must include a completed Provincial application form (available on the City website under the Building Division page), site plan indicating the location of the tent with setbacks to other buildings and property lines shown
- Must maintain 3m to property lines and other structures
- Ground enclosed by the tent must be clear of flammable material (grass cut short is acceptable)
- Copy of flame resistant certification required – must state compliance with either NFPA 701 or CAN/ULC-S109
- Access must be provided for fire fighting (must be easily approachable by emergency personnel)

Tents greater than 225m² in area:

- All requirements for tents 61m² – 225m² apply as well as the following:
- Professional Engineer must design the supporting framing structure and anchorage system, sign a commitment to review form and inspect the tent after it is erected but before it is put in use
- A copy of the Engineer's report is to be submitted to the Building Division
- Sanitary facilities must be provided in compliance with the Building Code

General Requirements:

- If more than one tent is used and they are placed within 3m of each other, the total area of all such tents are considered as if they were only one tent
- Building permit application must be submitted at least 10 days prior to erection
- The addition of bleachers or side walls automatically puts the tent into the greater than 225m² category regardless of size

An inspection is required prior to the tent being put into use. Fire Prevention staff accompany the Building Inspector to perform a joint inspection organized via the Building Division