



Temporary Tent Guide

What is a Temporary Tent

In the Ontario Building Code, "tent" refers to a temporary fabric shelter used at open-air events, typically supported by poles and ground ties. Permanent fabric structures on buildings have separate requirements and are not covered in this guide.

Do I need a Permit for a Tent?

Under Ontario Building Code, tents or groups of tents require a permit when:

- The total combined ground area of all tents exceeds 60m² (645ft²).
- The tent is attached to a building.
- The tent is located less than 3 meters (9ft-10ft) from other structures.

I need a Permit – What Information do I need?

Table 1: Summary of Building Code Requirements

Description		Applicant Requirements	Area of Proposed Tent	
			60m ² to 225m ²	> 225m ²
1	Building Permit Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Property Layout that includes the following :	Detailed drawing of property layout and where tent will be placed and exact size	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Minimum 3.0m from property lines & other structures/tents		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Minimum 3.0m clearance of vegetation and combustibles		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Tent fabric & films certified to CAN/ULC-S109/NFPA 701		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Access required for the purpose of firefighting		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Driveway for fire truck access within 30m of tent		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Electrical equipment inaccessible to public		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Cables on the ground placed in trenches or protected		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Minimum 30m travel distance to exit		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Minimum width between stake lines shall be the width necessary for means of egress, but not less than 3m		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Professional Engineer Design	Schedule 1 and Engineered Drawing for exact size of tent and anchoring of tent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Building Department Inspection to review the follow:			
	Structural Integrity and Anchoring Points <i>(will also require engineered inspection)</i>	Inspection is required after the tent is erected and before the event begins. Please note that inspections must be booked one business day in advance, no later than 3 p.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Exits signs & emergency lighting		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sanitary Facilities, Ontario Building Code Table 3.7.4.3.E.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Additional Information:

1. Any tent with sidewalls must be designed by a qualified and registered designer (BCIN).
2. A tent <225m² in area and will no sidewalls or bleachers is exempt from any designer requirements of the Ontario Building Code.
3. No cooking that produces grease/oily vapors is allowed in tents without an approved ventilation system.