



Chesterfield County , Virginia Department of Building Inspection

9800 Government Center Pkwy - P.O. Box 40 - Chesterfield, VA 23832-0040
Phone: (804) 748-1057 - Fax: (804) 717-6080- Internet: chesterfield.gov

Ron Clements
Building Official

Tent Requirements

A building permit is required to install a tent if the tent area exceeds 900 square feet in area or the tent will accommodate more than 50 people.

We recommend that you check with the Planning Department at (804) 748-1050 prior to application for the tent permit to discuss any zoning issues that may prevent installation of the tent.

If a permit is required, please provide a set of plans (11" x 17" or smaller) that include:

- A Site layout Plan that shows the proposed tent location on the property with distances to property lines and other buildings noted, and if the tent will be located in a parking lot note the number of parking spaces that will be covered by the tent
- A Seating Chart /Layout that shows tables, chairs, aisles and features that will be arranged within the tent and the estimated maximum number of occupants that may be within the tent at one time
- A copy of the Flame Spread Certificate from the tent manufacturer.
- Note on the Plans:
 - o What the tent will be used for
 - o Provide the length of time that the tent will be set up
 - o The name, occupation, addresses and phone number of the person that prepared the plans
 - o If any cooking will take place within the tent provide a complete description of the cooking operation and appliances proposed for use
 - o That the tent is open sided or closed sided and note the locations of exits from the tent if closed sided
 - o If the tent is closed sided and the occupant load exceeds 50 exit signs and egress lights will be required. If the tent is open sided and will be used after dark egress lights will be required.
 - o Note if any electrical service will be provided to the tent and if so what type (extension cord from a building, generator, etc.). An extension cord from a building or a direct plug in connection from a generator to the appliance does not require an electrical permit. A panel board and distribution system installed between the power source and the tent does require a separate electrical permit. Generators must be located at least 20 feet away from tents.
 - o Provide fire extinguishers dispersed such that all areas within the tent are within 75 feet of a fire extinguisher. Fire extinguishers must be clearly visible or their locations identified with clearly visible signs.

OSHA requires tent stakes to be safety capped to prevent impalement or other injuries.

Last updated 11/1/19