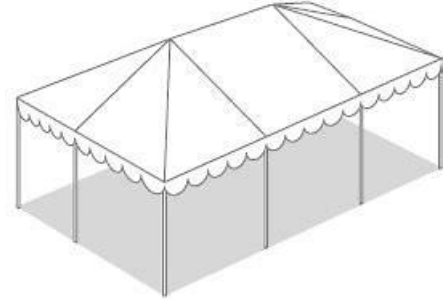




# Guidelines on Heating Outdoor Tents



Local jurisdictions are allowing businesses to open back up, and with reopening comes guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Some businesses are offering outdoor areas to help keep patrons safe, featuring outdoor seating and tables under tents. With the onset of winter, businesses want to heat these outdoor areas for the comfort of their customers. Several fire and life safety issues must be considered when heating outdoor tents.



This guide is intended to help businesses safely heat tents installed for outdoor dining and other commercial activities. Heat sources covered by this guide include electric, natural gas, or liquefied petroleum gas such as propane or butane.

## ***Follow Manufacturer's Instructions***



When installing outdoor heating, please read the manufacturer's instructions first. It is important that all gas and electric heating appliances be installed and maintained in accordance to the product listing, operation and installation instructions. Failure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can result in a business being temporarily shut down.

## ***Be Familiar with Local Codes***

Woodinville fire codes outline proper use of heating appliances and equipment. Required safety measures to be aware of include:

- Portable propane heaters are prohibited inside tents.
- Heating equipment is not allowed within 10 feet of exits or combustible materials.
- Portable gas-fired heating appliances cannot be located beneath or closer than five feet from combustibles and buildings.
- Equipment designed to be vented shall be vented to outdoor air.
- Propane tanks must be located outside and at least 10 feet from the tent.
- Equipment to be vented shall have vents and flues placed more than one foot from the tent.
- Propane tanks must be securely fastened to prevent movement, damage by vehicles, and to prevent tampering.
- Open flame heating devices are prohibited within 20 feet of a tent.

A mechanical permit is not required for portable heating equipment but is required if permanent natural gas piping is used.

### ***Additional Guidance***

Contact Woodinville Fire and Rescue to review appliance product lists and pre-approve locations for heating devices. Call Capt. Ian D'Ambrosia at (425) 483-2131 for more information.

Contact the State Department of Labor and Industries for information regarding electrical permits and electrical inspection. Their website can be found at <https://www.lni.wa.gov/>.

**Questions?** Please call City of Woodinville Development Services at (425) 489-2754; or Pat Lawler, Building Official, at (425) 877-2297.

CITY OF WOODINVILLE

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425-489-2754 • 17301 133<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE • Woodinville, WA 98072

Monday – Thursday 7:30am – 5:00pm • Friday 7:30am – 4:00pm