



**Montgomery County
Department of Permitting Services**

2425 Reedie Drive, 7th Floor
Wheaton, MD 20902
Phone: 311 in Montgomery County or (240) 777-0311
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps



Tent Safety Alert

It is Montgomery County's overwhelming desire to maintain the safety of all our residents, businesses and visitors. Recently, there has been an increase in the use of tents to transition inside uses to outdoor uses. This is a reminder of items to be considered to ensure our use of tents are as safe as possible.

1. The erection and use of all tents must always comply with the manufacturer's recommendations and state and local fire and life safety requirements.
2. Tents and membrane structures are not capable of withstanding the same weather forces as buildings. Operational plans for inclement weather events such as snow, storms and high winds must be developed and implemented appropriately. Tents must not be occupied during any of these events.
3. Use of "Severe Weather Alerts" for weather warnings of impending weather events is highly recommended. To sign up for these alerts, visit alert.montgomerycountymd.gov.
4. Each tent must be visually inspected after each storm event for any signs of damage before tents are reoccupied.
5. To be considered "outdoor", at least one side of the tent must be completely open.
6. Every tent must have a minimum of two exits, conforming to the Fire and Life Safety Codes which include ambient and emergency lighting and Exit Signs above the exits.
7. All flame producing devices are strictly prohibited under any portion of the tent, which includes all types of propane heaters.
8. Electrical power for lighting, heating and accessory use requires an Electrical Permit from the [Department of Permitting Services](#) (DPS).
9. All heating methods require a Mechanical Permit from [DPS](#).
10. Cooking under any portion of the tent is prohibited.
11. Occupancy limits and all other requirements shall comply with the most current [Executive Order](#).
12. For more information, visit the DPS website for [Guidelines for Permitting Tents and Temporary Membrane Structures during COVID-19](#).