

Tents and the Ontario Building Code

As the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), the City of Kawartha Lakes Building & Septic Division has determined the requirement for tent permits will follow this guiding document, in conjunction with the OBC and BCA. These can be tents for wedding or private parties and tents for commercial functions.

Tents that exceed 645 square feet (60 m²) or a group of tents (two or more tents are considered a group if not more than 9'10" apart (3 m)) with a combined area that exceeds 645 square feet (60 m²) require a Building Permit, unless they meet all of the following:

- The tent or group of tents (less than 3m apart) shall not exceed 225m² in ground area;
- The tent(s) shall be located at least 3m from any property line and no less than 3m from adjacent tents (except for tents within a group of tents with an aggregate area not exceeding 225m²) and/or structures on the same property;
- The tent(s) shall have a minimum of two means of egress and these shall be remotely located from each other. Openings in the wall panels shall be a minimum of 1m wide to allow for the required egress. If swing type doors are provided, they shall swing in the direction of egress;
- The tent(s) shall not contain any bleachers; and
- The tent(s) shall be erected for a maximum period of 10 days.

If any of the above requirements are not met then a building permit is required. Where a permit is required 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 and Septic Division.

Note: Even if a building permit is not required, it is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and other applicable regulations such as zoning, parking and fire prevention.

Please see our [Building Permits and Guides Page](#) for application forms and information.