



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT USING TEMPORARY TARP, TENT OR MEMBRANE STRUCTURES FOR OUTDOOR SEATING

KVFR realizes the need for business owners to have outdoor seating and or work space and wants to work with them to come up with temporary solutions. Life safety concerns need to be addressed when supporting the use of tarp, tent and membrane structures. The following are our required guidelines for the use of tarp, tent and membrane structures to meet the requirements of the fire code.

1. All tarp, tent, membrane structures will be for temporary use only unless permitted as a permanent structure.
2. If the structure is 400 sq. ft. or less it will not require a permit. Regardless of permit status, the tarp, tent or membrane structure still need to comply with flammability standards.
3. If the structure is more than 400 sq. ft. it will require a permit from the fire marshal. Regardless of permit status, the tarps/tents still need to comply with flammability standards. A permit is still required for inspection to verify life safety requirements.
4. The tarp, tent or membrane structure must be labeled or have documentation of meeting either NFPA 701 or Cal State Fire Marshal for flame retardant material.
5. No combustible materials are allowed under the tarp, tent or membrane structure. This includes hay, straw, wood chips etc.
6. No open flame within 20' of the tent, tarp, or membrane structure. This includes open flame heaters and wood or propane fire pits.
7. If the sides of the structure are enclosed then the tarp, tent or membrane structure must comply with exiting requirements.
8. Tents or membranes structures shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent collapsing. Business owner shall be prepared to remove the tent prior to predicted storm events.

9. Fire extinguishers must be installed with a minimum 2A: 10BC rating. The fire extinguisher shall be mounted in a visible location with the top of the extinguisher not more than 5' above grade.
10. Smoking shall not be permitted in any tent or membrane structure.
11. Emergency access to tents or membrane structures all adjacent structures must be maintained at all times. No route for ingress or egress to the property or any structure may be blocked.
12. Generators shall not be located within tents or membrane structures. Refueling shall not occur within 20 ft. of tents or membrane structures. Fuel storage shall not be located closer than 50 ft. from tents or membrane structures.

See examples of acceptable tarps and canopies.

Example 1:



White Heavy Duty Fire Retardant Poly Tarps

★★★★★ 3 Reviews 0 Question | Write a review

SKU: CS-P12FRW

Starting at: **\$21.68**

IN STOCK

SIZE *

Choose an Option... ▾

QTY: 1

ADD TO CART

White Heavy Duty Flame Retardant Poly Tarps:

- Meets NFPA 701, CPAI-84 & California Title 19 Compliant as a registered flame resistant product
- 100% Waterproof
- Heavy duty poly tarp
- Fire resistant poly
- 12 Mill thickness
- 6 oz per square yard
- 3 Ply poly material
- 1200 Denier fibers
- 12 x 14 Mesh count per square inch
- Reinforced corners
- Acid and rot resistant
- Hems reinforced with rope
- UV resistant
- Reinforced woven and coated polyethylene
- White on both sides
- Mildew resistant
- Cut size tarps (finish size is smaller)
- Aluminum grommets approximately every 18"
- Arctic temperature flexibility

These poly tarps typically ship out in 5-7 business days.

Example 2:



Caravan 10 x 10 Displayshade Canopy Value Package
+ 4 Sidewalls

★★★★★ 352 Reviews [See 50 Questions & 55 Answers](#)

Sale Price: \$279.95 & FREE Shipping

List Price: \$399.99
You Save \$120.04 (30%)

Choose Top Color ▼

In Stock.
* Usually Ships Same Business Day.

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This value package also includes:

- 10' x 10' lightweight steel frame, with a white hammertone finish and a seven-foot tall clearance - the industry's highest!
- Pebble powder coating for superior rust resistance
- Pull pin technology easily deploys the frame in seconds
- CPAI-84 fire resistant 500-denier polyester canopy cover (the White top is 600-denier)
- Blocks 100% of sun's ultraviolet rays

[See Complete Product Details >>](#)

Tent/Membrane or Awning Heat sources

What is Not Approved?

Per International Fire Code (IFC), the following heating devices are not approved for interior Tent use.

IFC:

Section 603.4.2.1.1 Prohibited Locations. The storage or use of portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances is prohibited in any of the following locations:

1. Inside of any occupancy where connected to a fuel gas container. (propane, natural gas or gasoline).
2. Inside of **tents**, canopies and membrane structures.
3. On exterior balconies.

Section 3104.7 Open or exposed flame. Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire, heat or any flammable or *combustible liquids*, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or membrane structures while open to the public unless *approved by the fire code official*.



The above are examples of the types of heating units that are prohibited inside of tents. This list is not all inclusive but only an example of a few prohibited gas-fired heaters.

***Approved for Exterior use only- Must be secured at the base to prevent tipping over.**

What Is Approved?

All heating equipment used within the tent must be listed (approved) for that use. Most tent rental companies will have information on available equipment.

Examples of allowed heating devices:

- Electric Heaters with approved wiring.
- Propane or natural gas Catalytic heaters (flameless) listed for use in membrane structures.
- Ducted propane or Natural gas heaters for use in membrane structures.
- Other heaters listed for interior use may be approved by the Fire Marshal.
- LP gas containers shall be located outside of the tent or membrane structure.

Exception: Portable containers not exceeding 5 gallons are not required to be separated provided they are secured to prevent displacement.

Section 603.4.2.1.2 Clearance to buildings. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall be located not less than 5 feet from buildings.

Section 603.4.2.1.3 Clearance to combustible materials. Portable outdoor gas-fired heating appliances shall not be located beneath, or closer than 5 feet to combustible decorations and combustible overhangs, awnings, sunshades or similar combustible attachments to buildings.



The above are examples of the types of heating units that are approved propane heaters for exterior use for tents. This list is not all inclusive but only an example of approved heaters.

Propane heaters that are not

Electric Heaters

Section 604.10 Portable, electric space heaters. Where not prohibited by other sections of this code, portable, electric space heaters shall be permitted to be used in all occupancies in accordance with Sections 604.10.1 through 604.10.5.

- **604.10.1 Listed and labeled.** Only listed and labeled portable, electric space heaters shall be used
- **604.10.2 Power supply.** Portable, electric space heaters shall be plugged directly into an *approved* receptacle.
- **Extension cords.** Use of extension cords must be approved by a Licensed Electrician.
- **604.10.4 Prohibited areas.** Portable, electric space heaters **shall not be** operated within 3 feet of any combustible materials. Portable, electric space heaters shall be operated only in locations for which they are listed.



The above are examples of the types of heating units that are approved Electric heaters for interior use for tents. This list is not all inclusive but only an example of approved heaters.

Catalytic Heaters. Propane or natural gas fueled catalytic heaters which heat by chemical reaction and have no combustion are allowed within a tent or canopy. Catalytic heaters must have UL or other NRTL listing, tip-over switch, and maintain clearances as required by the manufacturer, but in no case less than 3 feet from any persons or combustible material including the tent or sidewall fabric.



Catalytic Heater Examples