

Tents

While it is unusual for non-commercial tents to require electrical or mechanical permits, if elaborate lighting or equipment is planned utilizing a large generator, these additional permits may also be required.

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Department of
Community Development
ZONING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

29 Ashby Street
Suite 310
Warrenton, Virginia 20186
Phone: 540-422-8220
Fax: 540-422-8231

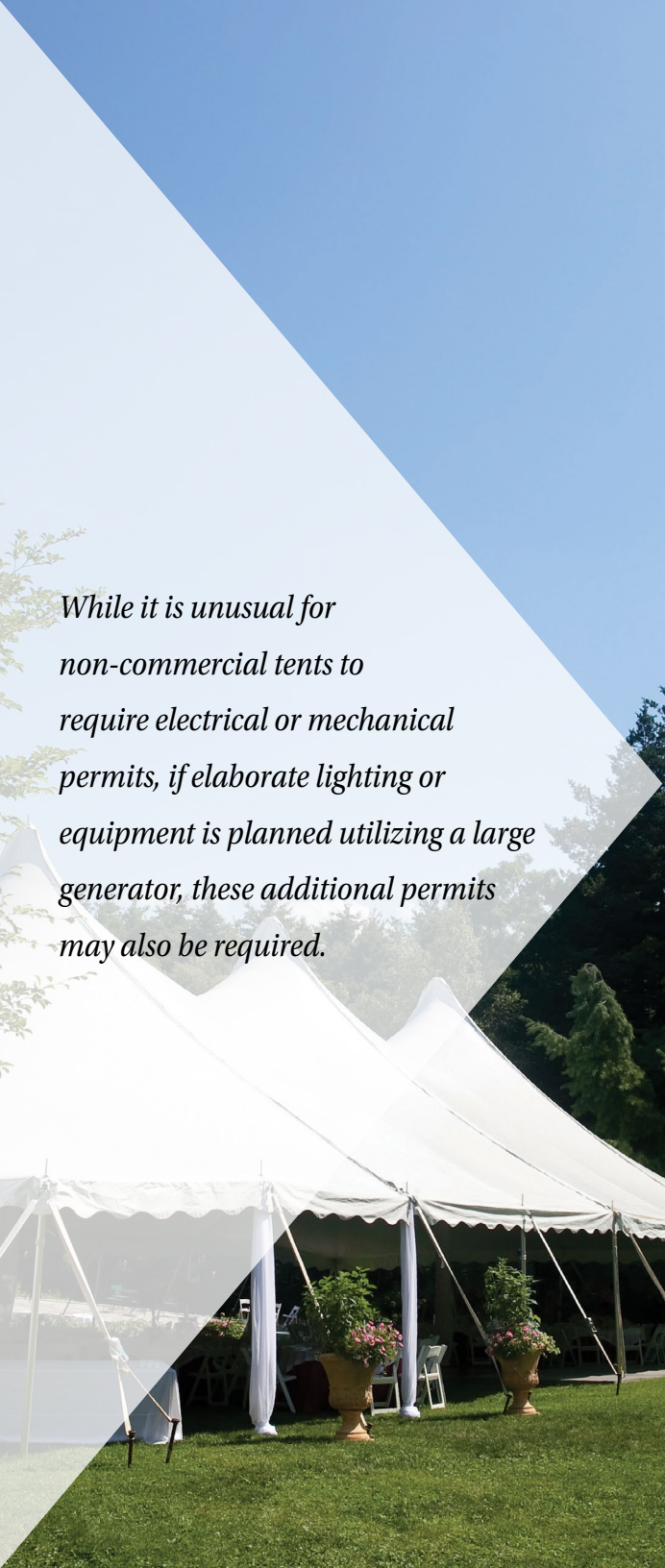
Additional information available online at
www.fauquiercounty.gov



FAUQUIER COUNTY

Department of Community
Development

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The Virginia Construction Code requires a property owner to obtain a permit before installing certain tents. A permit is needed if the tent is larger than 900 square feet in size or will house more than 50 people. A permit is also needed if the tent is to remain for more than 180 days; however, such long-term tents are not considered temporary and are not covered by this guide.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for a permit for a tent?

An application for a [Tent Permit](#) must be filed with Zoning and Development Services. An application for a single tent is typically processed the same day it is filed. An application for the installation of multiple tents, commercial-use tents, or tents involving electrical or mechanical equipment may require additional time to process. Please plan accordingly, especially for a weekend event, as Fauquier County does not have weekend hours. The completed application form must describe the intended use of the tent, the number of expected occupants, and include the following:

- Plat showing the location of the tent(s) on the property, with all property lines and buildings clearly marked.
- Floor plan of the tent(s) showing dimensions of tent and locations of tables, chairs, stages, platforms, aisles and, where sides are to be installed, the exits.
- Flame Resistance Certifications for the

tent(s); these should be available from the tent company.

- Fees: Permit fees are required for all tents. For personal residential use, a permit fee is required for the first tent. For commercial use, the first tent requires a different fee than residential use. A lesser fee is required for additional tents. Tent fees do not include any electrical or mechanical permits, if required.

Once the tent permit is issued, the tent may be installed consistent with the plans approved with the permit. Residential use tents 1,400 sq. ft. or less in size, located at least 20 feet from any other structure, and with no sides or lighting installed to be utilized during day-time do not require an inspection. All other tents require a follow-up inspection prior to the tent being utilized. Call Zoning and Development Services at 540-422-8230 to schedule the inspection. Approved plans, including the flame-resistance certifications, must be on-site for the inspection.



Can the tent company secure the permit for me?

Yes; and this approach is utilized by many tent companies. For your protection, be sure to confirm that the tent company has secured any required permits.

Are there any other requirements?

Yes, the Fire Code includes a number of requirements aimed at increasing safety in tents. These requirements should be considered even when a tent permit is not required.

1. **Fire extinguishers**—All tents require a 2A:10BC fire extinguisher for every 1500 square feet of tent space. Minimum of one. Don't forget to check to make sure the extinguisher is up to date and properly charged.
2. **"No Smoking" signs**—Smoking is not permitted in tents. "NO SMOKING" signs must be conspicuously posted.
3. **Open flame**—No open flames of any kind are allowed within the tent or within 20' of a tent.
4. **Proximity to buildings**—Tents must be 20' from permanent buildings or meet Fire Code exceptions. Please speak with a plan reviewer if the intention is to place it any closer.
5. **"Exit" signs**—An "Exit" sign must be installed above all designated exits. If the tent will be used at night, illuminated exit signs and emergency lighting is required.
6. **Cooking**—Cooking should be done in a separate area/tent at least 20' from occupied tents.

If you have any questions about the requirements for tents, please give Development Services staff a call at 540-422-8230.