

# TENT INFORMATION

Town of East Lyme Building Department  
108 Pennsylvania Avenue  
PO Box 519  
Niantic, CT 06357  
Telephone: (860) 691-4114 Fax: (860) 691-0351

1. Permits are not required for tents 350 square feet or less, EXCEPT if there is electric wiring, heating or cooking facilities.
2. Permits are not required for tents 900 square feet or less, EXCEPT if they are occupied by 50 or more persons or have electrical wiring, heating or cooking facilities and are erected for fewer than 72 hours.
3. Within a tent, the tent supplier or homeowner can plug in their own equipment, including exit signs and lighting. An Electrical Permit is required.
4. Lightning protection is NOT REQUIRED for a tent. A tent is not the place to be during a storm.
5. Ground Rods are required ONLY AT A GENERATOR and shall be grounded effectively to the generator. Not required at tent poles – tent poles shall be bonded to the grounding.
6. Electric power taken from a dwelling shall use the dwellings grounding system.
7. Lighting shall be protected by guards and kept away from combustible materials. NEC 305-4(f) Festoon wiring is allowed in a tent (incandescent lamps are OK).
8. Lighting shall be kept high enough within tent as not to make contact with pedestrians.
9. Tent supplier or homeowner may do electric power directly from a generator with outlets and plug in cords. GFCI OUTLETS MUST BE AT TENT. An Electrical Permit is required.
10. Tent supplier or homeowner may do electric power from the sub-panel GFCI outlets to within tent. An Electrical Permit is required and may be taken out by the tent supplier, homeowner or agent.
11. Electric power from house panel to sub panel shall be installed by a qualified licensed electrical contractor. An Electrical Permit is required.
12. Sub panel may be inside or outside tent and must be supported.
13. Nuisance tripping of GFCI can be eliminated by the use of short cords and less load per circuit.
14. NPA 102 – open flame device is not allowed – must have hurricane glass around flame.
15. Sterno type food warming devices are allowed in tents WITHOUT A PERMIT if an approved holding device which would keep the sterno from falling over supports them.
16. All tents with occupant load greater than 50 shall have two exits. \*
17. All tents that are required to have more than one exit shall have approved exit signs. Does not have to be internally lit unless used at night, however there must be back up power for light illuminated sign.\*

\*Exception: Where tent has no sides and means of egress are obvious.