



# Winter Outdoor Dining Guide



## Wood Smoke & Your Health

While wood-burning fire pits are often a fun part of being outdoors, wood smoke can affect your health in numerous ways. According to the American Lung Association, tiny particles in wood smoke can increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, and can trigger asthma attacks. Older adults, children, and individuals with pre-existing heart and lung conditions are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of wood smoke.

To reduce the harmful effects of wood smoke, burn dry, seasoned wood that has been properly covered and stored. To reduce the amount of smoke a fire produces, always provide sufficient air to the fire and never let it smolder.

As the weather cools and businesses want to maintain outdoor dining services to reduce the risks of COVID-19, the following code and safety requirements apply:

## Fire Pits/Rings

Permanent, immovable fire pits require a building permit. Fires must be confined to a metal or masonry container. Gas fire pits require a both a building permit and a plumbing permit. Bonfires are prohibited.

## Tents

During Phase IV, capacity for indoor and outdoor dining is the same and is based on ability to provide a minimum of six feet between tables or other designated patron service areas. All other State guidelines for social distancing are required. Tents require a building permit and must be properly secured with a certificate of flame resistance displayed.

## Patio Heaters/Warmers

Businesses are required to use commercial-grade patio heaters. Heaters designed for residential use are not allowed. Mounted heaters require a building permit. Operation of patio heaters must follow the manufacture specifications and guidelines.

**More information and code requirements on the back of this flyer ↪**

**All outdoor dining equipment must be commercial-grade and installed and operated to manufacturer specifications!**

# Fire Pit & Outdoor Tent Requirements

## Fire Pits

Per the City of Highland Park amendment to the 2018 International Fire Code (2018 IFC), a “recreational fire” is allowed under supervision, however, any other type of “open burning” is prohibited (Sec. 91-1.010).

Under 2018 IBC Section 202, a “Recreational Fire” is defined as: The burning of materials, other than rubbish, where the fuel being burned is contained in an outside fireplace, barbeque grill, or barbeque pit and has a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, or cooking purposes.

A fire pit shall maintain a minimum 10'-0" clearance to a structure: same minimum 10'-0" clearance to a structure applies to an outdoor bar-b-que or built-in grill within an outdoor

cooking counter- unless otherwise approved by manufacturer’s specifications

If there will be a gas log lighter in the proposed fire pit, a Plumbing permit application will be required the Plumbing Contractor’ 055 license information, along with a Letter of Intent is required with the Plumbing permit application. A building permit will not be required if it is portable (on wheels, or removed after each night).

Manufacturer’s specifications and safety guidelines will dictate the usage:

- Commercial vs Residential usage
- Securing and anchoring
- Usage for under a tent



Fire pits that can be moved or are portable do not require a permit.



Permanent fire pit structures require a building permit.



Gas fire pits require a building permit and plumbing permit.

## Outdoor Tents

Capacity for indoor and outdoor dining is the same and is based on ability to provide a minimum of six feet between tables or other designated patron service areas. All other State requirements apply:

- Maximum occupancy of 25% in standing areas (i.e. bar area, waiting area for a table);

- Parties of up to 10 permitted
- Booths may be seated within 6 ft if impermeable barrier in place
- Buffets and self-service food stations allowed, with queue points of 6 ft apart, sanitation stations and frequent utensil cleaning

*\*If infection rates in our region rise, capacity limits for indoor and outdoor dining are subject to change.*



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For questions please call the Building Division at (847) 432-0808, or visit the City’s website at [www.cityhpil.com](http://www.cityhpil.com)