



VENDOR TENT SAFETY GUIDELINES

Help protect yourself, neighbouring vendors, customers, volunteers and event staff. Even a brief gust of wind can lift or overturn an improperly secured tent.

Secure every tent leg: Use a purpose-made weight on every leg, attached securely to the tent frame or leg according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not rely on the tent's own weight.

Minimum weights: For a typical 10 ft × 10 ft (3.05 m × 3.05 m) pop-up tent, aim for at least **40 lb (18.1 kg) per leg** (160 lb / 72.6 kg total). Larger tents, sidewalls, heavier winds, or exposed locations may require more. Follow the manufacturer's higher requirements where applicable.

Use safe, stable weights: Use commercial tent weights or firmly secured sandbags or other purpose-built ballast. Weights must rest on the ground, not hang where they can swing and be securely attached to the tent leg.

Grass vs Pavement: Properly installed stakes may provide additional security on grass, where permitted, but weights should still be used on every leg.

Keep walkways clear: Position weights and tie-downs within your booth footprint wherever possible. Avoid trip hazards and ensure accessibility for customers and neighbouring vendors.

Monitor weather and act early: Check forecasts before arrival and monitor conditions throughout the event. Lower or remove sidewalls when appropriate; if winds increase or the tent becomes unstable, stop trading and safely take down the canopy. Follow directions from event staff.

Never leave an unsecured canopy unattended: Secure the canopy during setup and dismantling as well as during trading hours. Do not assume calm conditions will continue.

Important: Tent weights reduce the risk of tents lifting or overturning but do not guarantee safety in high winds. Vendors must continuously assess weather conditions and promptly lower or dismantle their tents when conditions become unsafe. Event organizers may require any tent to be secured, lowered or removed where a safety concern exists.

This is particularly important given the proximity of vendors and the volume of visitors attending Taste of the Valley events.

For **DIY ballast options**, the most practical solutions are:

- **Sandbags:** Inexpensive, easy to adjust, and can reach 40–50 lbs per bag. Secure directly to each leg with a hook or strap.
- **Water jugs:** A standard 5-gallon jug weighs approximately 41.7 lbs when full. Practical for grass setups; avoid on concrete where tipping risk is higher. Fasten securely to each tent leg, do not rely only on the canopy tie down cord.
- **Concrete blocks / cinder blocks:** A standard 8x8x16 cinder block weighs approximately 28–35 lbs. Use two per leg to reach the 40 lb minimum, secured with strapping around each block and the tent leg to prevent sliding.
- **Commercial canopy weight bags:** Designed to hang from leg frames, typically sold in 10–25 lb increments. Stack to reach your target weight per leg.

Tent Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

An improperly secured tent can cause serious injury to customers, neighbouring vendors, volunteers and event staff. All vendors are expected to properly secure their tents throughout the event, regardless of weather conditions.

***Event organizers may require unsafe tents to be secured or taken down at any time.**