

TENT WEIGHT AND CANOPY SAFETY GUIDELINES

Properly securing your canopy is required for participation in outdoor events. A single unsecured tent can cause serious injury or property damage. These guidelines are based on Pima County and International Building Code (IBC 2018) safety standards and local event permit conditions.

Minimum Requirements

- All canopies must have a minimum of 40 pounds per leg.
- Weights must be attached to the frame — not just placed on the base.
- Tents without proper weights may not be set up or will be required to come down immediately.
- Tents must be taken down when sustained winds exceed 25 mph or when directed by event staff.

ACCEPTABLE TYPES OF WEIGHTS

Commercial Systems: Sandbag-style, fillable containers, or plate-style weights from manufacturers such as EZ-Up, Caravan, or King Canopy.

Homemade Systems: PVC pipe filled with concrete or sand, capped and fitted with secure hardware (eyebolts, rope, or straps). Each unit should weigh at least 40 lbs.

Mounting: Weights must be strapped or tethered to each leg, not suspended loosely. Use strong rope, ratchet straps, or heavy-duty bungees. Ensure no weight can swing or shift.



UNACCEPTABLE WEIGHTS

- Gallon water jugs, cinder blocks, or unsecured objects.
- Items tied to tables, coolers, or vehicles.
- Tent stakes without perimeter barriers.
- Hanging weights that can swing freely.
- Any object that presents a tripping or sharp-edge hazard.

PLACEMENT AND VISIBILITY

- Weights must be on or near the ground — never above head level.
 - Avoid cords or tethers across walking paths.
 - Mark or cover all tie-downs with bright tape or cones to improve visibility.
 - If using buckets or pipe weights, ensure soft edges and no protruding bolts.
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SETUP AND BREAKDOWN SAFETY

- Secure all weights before leaving your tent unattended.
 - Canopies must remain weighted during setup and breakdown periods, when wind risk is highest.
 - Never remove weights until your tent covering has been completely removed.
 - Keep customers and children clear during setup, breakdown, and re-securing.
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INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- Event staff may issue a “Take Down Order” if winds exceed safe thresholds or storms approach.
 - Vendors are responsible for immediately removing canopy tops when instructed.
 - Always maintain situational awareness; unexpected gusts can occur even in mild conditions.
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EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE WEIGHTING

- 5-gallon bucket filled with cement (≈40 lbs), securely tied to the frame.
 - Sandbags designed for canopy legs (vertical style, 40 lbs each).
 - Concrete-filled PVC pipe with metal loop for secure strapping.
 - Commercial plate weights mounted at the leg base.
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FINAL CHECKLIST

- 40 lbs minimum weight per leg
- Weights attached firmly to canopy frame
- No swinging or loose weights
- No trip hazards or exposed sharp edges
- Visible tie-downs with high-contrast marking
- Canopy secured before unattended periods
- Awareness of weather forecast and event staff alerts