



North Attleborough
Farmers Market
sponsored by Our Open Umbrella

Tent, Canopy and Umbrella Weight Requirement

Most accidents at markets involve windblown tents, canopies, and umbrellas. We understand the need to utilize canopies to shield vendors and their product from sun and rain, but unpredictable winds can come up at any moment creating a safety hazard if the canopy is not properly secured. Therefore, we require all vendors to minimize the risk caused by canopies by following the rules below for canopy safety.

All vendors who wish to erect canopies (including umbrellas) at the market, including the set up and break down period, are required to have their canopies sufficiently and safely anchored to the ground from the time their canopy is put up to the time it is taken down. Any vendor who fails to properly anchor his or her canopy will not be allowed to sell at the market that day unless that vendor chooses to take down and stow their canopy and sell without it. Sufficiently weighted canopies will have at least 40 pounds per leg of a 10×10 tent. 50 pounds should be used for umbrellas. Weights for signs will vary depending on the size of the sign. Canopies should also be secured to the ground with stakes.

During setup and breakdown periods you must be sure to completely secure your canopy. Do NOT let yourself be interrupted by ANYTHING in the middle of this process, as a half-secured canopy is as dangerous, if not more dangerous, than an unsecured canopy.

In certain inclement weather conditions even properly secured canopies can be precarious. If canopies need to be taken down in the middle of the market due to inclement weather, vendors should direct customers to move out of the way, so they are not injured.

CANOPY WEIGHTS

Canopy weights should be located on the ground and out of the way of the customer.

- Weights should not cause a tripping hazard
- Weights should be tethered with lines that are clearly visible
- Weights should have soft edges to avoid causing cuts and scrapes
- Weights should be securely attached
- Weights should be on the ground (NOT above people's heads)

EXAMPLES OF GOOD CANOPY WEIGHTS

- Filling an empty bucket (2.5 gallon works great) with cement and tying this to each corner of the tent with a rope or bungee. It is NOT sufficient to place the bucket on the feet of the canopy.
- Filling buckets/containers with sand/cement that can be anchored or secured with a rope or bungee; these include canvas bags or plastic buckets/containers that have a handle through which a rope or bungee can be secured.
- Sandbag weights that are specially made for securing canopies and weigh at least 24 pounds. These sandbag weights are vertical and can be strapped the legs of the canopy.
- PVC pipe capped and filled with cement can be hung on the inside of canopy poles as long as it is secured so that it does not collide with customers.
- The best weights are strapped to the bottom of each leg, and then tethered via a bungee to the top corner of the canopy, thus lowering the center of gravity of the canopy. In a strong gust of wind, even canopies secured with enough weight, can be broken if the weights are not suspended from the top corners of the canopy.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD CANOPY WEIGHTS

- Gallon water jugs are not heavy enough for large gusts of wind. One gallon of water weighs 8 pounds. One gallon of water on each corner would be the equivalent of a 3 year old child trying to hold down a 100 square foot parachute.
- Tying tents, canopies or umbrellas to tables, coolers or vehicles provides tripping hazards and frequently does not provide adequate weight. Vendor safety is just as important as customer safety. Sandbags that cannot be placed upright and securely tied to the tent or canopy should not be used.
- In addition to not providing enough grip to prevent a canopy from taking flight in a strong gust of wind, tent stakes are barely visible to shoppers and can cause a serious tripping hazard to an unsuspecting customer.
- Never use cement blocks! They are hard, easy to trip over, and are very effective toe and shin breakers.
- At all costs, avoid stretched out cords and lines. Customers and their children will get them wrapped around their arms or legs, causing them to trip and fall, and perhaps pull over your displays in the process.