

Having overhead structures, roofs, lighting, and wood platforms in outdoor seating areas, regardless of whether private or public, may require specific permits.

Overhead Structures, Roofs, Tents & Electrical Wiring

Adding an overhead structure or roof of any size or a tent that is 400 sq. ft. or greater to a seating area requires additional permits from the City's Inspectional Services Department and a new the Temporary Extension of Licensed Premises permit from the License Commission:

- New overhead stand-alone structures, roofs and tents that are 400 sq. ft. or larger require a Building Permit – New Construction:
<https://cambridgema.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1118/record-types/6668>.
- If the structure/tent/roof is somehow attached to the brick and mortar/building, you apply for a Building Permit- Addition/Alteration:
<https://cambridgema.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1118/record-types/6659>.

Outdoor rated decorative low voltage plug-in lighting (any lighting or equipment that uses 60 volts of electricity or less) does not need an electrical permit. An electrical permit is required for electrical wiring that is being run from a building to a seating area, if other types of lighting are used or outdoor electrical outlets are provided, then an electrical permit is needed. Electrical wires can only be run overhead and the wire must be at least 10 ft. clear at lowest point over public walkway. No wires at grade on the public sidewalk are permitted.

- Electrical permits can be applied for here:
<https://cambridgema.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1118/record-types/6552> .

Questions about building, tent and electrical permits can be directed to the Inspectional Services Department at 617-349-6100, ranjits@cambridgema.gov, or sdaglian@cambridgema.gov.

Platforms

Before building a wood platform in an already permitted area in a parking lane, you must receive approvals from the Department of Public Works and the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department. Contact Rob Linke (DPW), rlinke@cambridgema.gov and Brooke Mckenna (TP&T), bmckenna@cambridgema.gov for approvals.

For those of you that have already implemented any of the above without a permit, you must, within 3 weeks of the date of this email, submit all required applications, supporting document and fees (permits may take longer to issue, but the applications and fees need to be in within this time frame). In addition, if the area is one which was approved through a temporary extension due to COVID-19, you must submit a new Temporary Extension of Licensed Premises to an Outdoor Area due to COVID-19 application: <https://cambridgema.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1096/record-types/6771>. Failure to comply as stated will result in the immediate revocation of your temporary extension or outdoor area.

Any questions, please contact us.

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