

# Winter Patio Guidelines

**The Town of Oakville has extended the 2020 patio program to December 31, 2020.**

To support businesses, the Town of Oakville has extended its current patio program to December 31, 2020. The extension is for patios on both public and private property, provided that all of the guidelines outlined in this document can be met.

Existing permit holders will require an extension agreement if they would like to use their patio beyond November 3, 2020. New requests for patios will require a new patio agreement.

Contact Service Oakville at 905-845-6601 or [service@oakville.ca](mailto:service@oakville.ca) to discuss the extension of your existing patio permit.

## General Rules

1. **Extension Agreement:** Existing patio permit holders will require an extension agreement if they would like to use their patios beyond November 3, 2020. New requests for patios will require a new patio permit agreement
2. **Heaters:** Heaters will be allowed as long as they meet the guidelines provided in the “Heaters” section of this document. To provide heating in a covered area, a review by the Oakville Fire Department is required.
3. **Snow Clearing:** Patios and bistros can remain on sidewalks if they can provide a 2m width and 2.4m height clearance to allow for snow removal equipment. Permit holders will be responsible for keeping their patios accessible and clear of snow and ice.
4. **Public Health Requirements:** Permit holders will be required to abide by all Halton Public Health requirements.
5. **Tents:** In some instances, tents may be permitted, including on-street parking spaces. For more information see the “Tents and other coverings” section of this document.

## Heaters

Portable heating devices will be permitted on outdoor patios with an extension agreement, provided they meet the requirements, restrictions and guidelines outlined below. Heating a covered structure, such as a tent, will require a review/inspection by the Oakville Fire Department.

### Portable heating unit requirements:

- Certified by CSA/ULC
- Meet the requirements of TSSA Act 2000
- Be designed for outdoor use only
- Have an anti-tilt feature that automatically shuts off the heater
- Be free-standing, with a minimum height of 160 cm

**Installation requirements:**

- Must be installed on a non-combustible solid surface (i.e. not on grass or uneven sidewalk)
- Must be out of the wind which can create a hazard if the unit is blown over
- Minimum of 1 metre (3 feet) clearance from the base of the heating unit to any combustible materials
- The pedestrian clearway must be free of power cables and cords at all times

**Portable heating appliances are NOT permitted in the following circumstances:**

- In any enclosed or partially enclosed areas\*
- Under fire escapes
- Within a means of egress or adjacent to an exit
- Underneath a combustible structure (i.e. canopies, awnings, tents, wood framework, umbrellas etc.)\*
- Adjacent to or otherwise obstructing firefighting equipment like fire hydrants or Siamese connections
- Near or attached to trees, utilities or other street elements
- Table top heating appliances are not permitted

*\*Heaters are not permitted in an enclosed or partially enclosed area or underneath a combustible structure without a review/inspection by the Oakville Fire Department to ensure safety.*

**Fueled heating appliances guidelines:**

For the use of propane or other fire fueled heating appliance, the following specific safety guidelines apply:

- Do not store the unit indoors
- Keep a maximum of one (1) day's supply of propane on site
- The maximum allowable propane tank size is a single 20lb tank (approx. 10 hours of operation)
- Do not move portable heater while the flame is open. Ensure the gas supply is properly shut off and the unit is cool before relocating
- Follow all manufacturer safety requirements for the safe transportation, operation and storage of fuel
- Each propane tank used must meet the requirements of the [Canadian Propane Association](#)
- Locate sufficient, easily accessible, fire extinguishers in the patio area.

It is the owner's responsibility to review and abide by the requirements and guidelines and ensure the safe installation, operation and maintenance of portable outdoor patio heating units. Follow all manufacturer guidelines for assembly, installation and maintenance of the appliance. Seek the assistance of a qualified professional if required.

For more information on Patio Heater Safety, please review the [TSSA Patio Heater Safety Guidelines](#).

## **Tents and other structures:**

Permit holders wishing to continue using or installing some form of covered structure (such as a tent) must consult with the Town of Oakville. In some instances, tents may be permitted, including on-street parking spaces, however, permit holders will be required to demonstrate that their tents can safely accommodate snow and wind loads. The Oakville Fire Department will provide an inspection for the use of all tents in conjunction with Building staff.

NOTE: Many tents are not constructed to withstand snow and wind loads. At this time, the onus remains with the patio permit holder to demonstrate how their tent can be safely operated.

In some instances, a building permit may be required for a tent. The Ontario Building Code, Div C. 1.3.1.1.(5), requires building permit approval for all tents that:

- Exceed 60m<sup>2</sup> (646 sq. ft.) in area, or
- Are attached to a building, or
- Are less than 3m (9'-10") from other structures

Tents located on private lands must also comply with the zoning regulations for the property, such as minimum and maximum setbacks, heights and storeys.

Permit holders are advised to discuss their plans with town staff prior to setting up a tent or covered structure on their patio. Contact Service Oakville at 905-845-6601 or [service@oakville.ca](mailto:service@oakville.ca).

## **For more information about Winter Patios**

Visit <https://www.oakville.ca/business/patio-application.html>

## **Questions?**

Should you have any questions, please contact Service Oakville at (905) 845-6601 or [service@oakville.ca](mailto:service@oakville.ca)

*Winter Patio Guidelines are subject to change at the Town of Oakville's discretion*