



City of White Plains Extended Sidewalk Café Season Guidelines

Propane Heaters:

1. No propane heater of any type will be permitted on the sidewalk under any umbrella, cover, tent, awning, canopy, or similar structure.
2. If no covering of any type or side barriers are used, radiant type propane heaters may be permitted. These types of heaters typically utilize either one pound propane containers (for table-top units) or 20 pound propane containers.
3. If a propane heater is used:
 - Propane heaters must be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Heaters shall be equipped with a tilt or tip-over switch that automatically shuts off the flow of gas if the appliance is tilted more than 15 degrees from the vertical.
 - No propane heater shall be placed within 10 feet of any building opening, including any door, window, intake or exhaust vent. In addition, no heater shall be within 10 feet of any manhole, catch basin, sidewalk vault access door, or electrical grate located in the sidewalk or street.
 - Propane containers must be disconnected from heaters at the close of business daily and removed from the sidewalk.
 - All 20 pound propane containers not installed in a heating devices must be stored off the sidewalk and in a location and manner permitted by the New York State Fire Code and the White Plains Supplemental Codes.

Electric Heaters:

1. Electric heaters may be permitted for use in sidewalk cafes under the following conditions:
 - No wires may cross the walking path of pedestrians on the sidewalk.
 - All electric heaters must be removed from the sidewalk café set up at night.
 - All electric heaters must be removed if it is raining (even if they are under cover).
 - Overhead wires will be permitted if properly supported.

Tents:

1. A tent or canopy may be utilized so long as it has at least two sides remain open for airflow whenever the tent is occupied. Of the two sides that need to be open, one must be parallel to the roadway.

2. The following information must be provided to the Department of Public Works prior to the installation of a tent:
 - The method to be used for securing the tent in place (e.g. – sand bags, weights, etc.).
 - The size and location of the tent.
 - The flame spread rating of the tent material.
 - The location of the tables and chairs, showing proper distancing and the maximum number of chairs within the tent.
3. The tent shall be removed during high wind conditions, at the direction of the Department of Public Works.
4. The tent shall be removed prior to projected heavy snow storm events, at the direction of the Department of Public Works.

Inclement Weather:

1. During an active snow storm or wind event:
 - Diners may not utilize the sidewalk cafes.
 - All heaters in the sidewalk café set up must be removed and propane, if used, must be stored properly in accordance with the New York State Fire Code and the White Plains Supplemental Codes.
 - Tents must be removed and stored appropriately off the sidewalk.
2. If 6” or more of snow is forecast:
 - Remove or consolidate the sidewalk café set up so as to have as small a footprint as possible at least 4 feet away from the curb and not blocking pedestrian passage.
 - Businesses are encouraged to take steps to protect their asset from damage due to snow removal operations.
 - Use of snow sticks and/or reflector tape is encouraged to increase the visibility of your sidewalk café set up components.

Additional Considerations:

1. Businesses operating extended season sidewalk cafes must continue to follow all applicable New York State COVID-19 requirements regarding social distancing, cleaning/sanitizing, mask wearing, and hours of operation.
2. All extended season sidewalk cafes will be subject to the approval of the Department of Public Works and the Fire Department. Failure to abide by these guidelines or any requirements may result in a Stop Work Order being issued, along with a fine of up to \$500.00.

Businesses that would like to operate a sidewalk café during the extended season should contact: Stefania Mignone, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works, (914) 422-1222, smignone@whiteplainsny.gov to initiate a coordinated review of the extended season sidewalk café set up.