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Mayor

# MAYOR'S OUTDOOR SEATING

Heating  
Solutions  
Program

## How is the City of Baltimore helping me extend my outdoor dining into the winter months?

The City is streamlining and speeding up the process for necessary permits and inspections and waiving all fees normally charged to place heating devices outside.

## Are restaurants allowed to place heaters outside to help warm customers?

Yes, restaurants may apply to be permitted to place heater devices outside through this program.

## How do I apply for heating to compliment the outdoor seating?

**Step 1:** The restaurant should have an Existing Temporary Outdoor Seating Permit (TMP) or an Existing Use and Occupancy Permit (USE), which indicates Outdoor Seating.

**Step 2:** Contact the Fire Marshal's Office at [FireMarshal@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:FireMarshal@baltimorecity.gov) or 410-396-5752; provide the applicable TMP and/or USE Permit number and request an inspection. *\*\*\*Make sure you have a drawing of the seating layout with the heater devices noted on the drawing.*

## What if my restaurant does not currently have outdoor seating?

If the restaurant does not have one of the above-listed permits, apply online by going to Housing & Community Development's E-Permits Website: [dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/pi/e-permits](http://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/pi/e-permits) where you will create an account or login to an existing account and apply for a temporary outdoor seating permit.

## How long does it take to get approved?

As soon as you contact the Fire Marshal, the City will guarantee an inspection and a decision on approval within 3 business days. A decision of approval will be effective immediately.

## I'm already permitted for outdoor dining. Do I need to get a different set of permits for heating?

No. Just apply for the heating devices as described above, and once approved, the City will modify your existing permit.

## How will I know if my space is eligible for outdoor heating devices?

Parklets (parking lane closures), sidewalks, and parking lots where outdoor seating has already been permitted are all eligible to be permitted for heating devices.

## What does the permit cost and how long does it last?

The City wants this process to be as easy on restaurant operators as possible and is waiving all permit fees. Permits will be in effect upon approval through June 30, 2021.

## What type of heating device should I use?

The City recommends propane-fueled heating devices. All devices should have a "trip" function that shuts them off in case they are accidentally knocked over. All propane storage devices must be stored outside at all times.

## What about electrical heating devices?

Electrical heaters aren't recommended. They require an additional inspection and must be hard-wired into your electrical system. You will not be allowed to connect an electric heater using an extension cord.

## What about natural gas heating devices?

Natural gas fueled devices may also be used, but they will require an extension of the natural gas service to be extended from the building.

## What kinds of heating devices will not be permitted?

Anything that uses gasoline or kerosene, or produces an open flame will not be permitted. This includes fire pits and generator-powered heaters.

## Heating devices may not:

- be positioned within five (5) feet of an entrance/exit
- be positioned within five (5) feet of a building
- be positioned within five (5) feet of another heating device
- be positioned within five (5) feet of an combustible items such as decorations, awnings, sunshades, trees, etc.
- be positioned underneath anything (roof, tent, awning, etc.)

## What if I have additional questions for need more information?

Contact the Fire Marshal's office at [FireMarshal@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:FireMarshal@baltimorecity.gov) or 410-396-5752.