

Game Day Tailgate Guidelines

City of East Lansing Rules & Tips for Hosting Responsibly

Whether you're hosting a tailgate at your chapter house or an off-campus home, here's what you need to know to keep things safe, legal, and fun:

- **What's Allowed Without a Permit**
 - **Tents:** You can have up to two 10x10 tents, but they can't be side-by-side. One can go in the front yard, and one in the back.
 - **Grills:** Totally fine; they just cannot be operated on combustible balconies/decks **OR** within 10 feet of combustible construction **OR** inside/under tents, canopies, **OR** other membrane structures, and must be used solely for cooking purposes.
 - **Music:** Amplified sound is okay but keep it reasonable. If you're setting up DJ equipment, large speakers, or running electrical cords, you'll need a permit.
- **What Requires a Permit**
 - Tents larger than 10x10
 - DJ setups or large sound systems
 - Propane-operated heaters or fire tables and any open flames (including grills not used for cooking)
- **Party Litter Ordinance – [Party Litter FAQ](#)**
 - Clean up your yard (front and back) before leaving for the game.
 - Litter like cups, cans, food wrappers, and kegs left outside can result in fines starting at \$150.
 - Even if the trash wasn't yours, you're responsible for keeping your property clean.
- **Noise Ordinance – [Need to Know Ordinances](#)**
 - The City of East Lansing's noise rules are in effect 24/7.
 - After 11 PM, violations become misdemeanors.
 - If your music or party noise is audible from the street or neighboring properties, you could get a citation—no warning required.
- **Outdoor Furniture – [Need to Know Ordinances](#)**
 - Only actual outdoor furniture is allowed outside. That means no couches, recliners, or indoor chairs on porches, lawns, or balconies.
- **Resources**
 - [Alcohol & Parties in City of East Lansing](#)