2026 Renton Farmers Market (RFM) Canopy Guidelines

CANOPIES: All vendors who wish to erect canopies on the RFM sites during a normal period of RFM operations, including the set up and break down period, are required to have their canopies sufficiently and safely weighed down from the time their canopy is put up to the time it is taken down. No anchors may be set in the shrub beds or pounded into turf without prior approval from the Parks Division representative and RFM Coordinator, as there are irrigation systems that could be impacted. Any vendor who fails to properly weigh down his or her canopy will not be allowed to sell at the RFM on that Market day, unless that vendor chooses to take down and stow their canopy and operate without it.

If a Vendor causes any significant damage due to negligence and/or disregard of guidelines and procedures, the damages will be assessed, and the vendor charged for repairs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Canopy Safety 101: Your Guide to Canopy Safety at Washington's Farmers Markets

All vendors who wish to erect canopies (including umbrellas) on the Farmers Market site during a normal period of market operations, including the set up and break down period, are required to have their canopies sufficiently and safely anchored to the ground from the time their canopy is put up to the time it is taken down. Each canopy leg must have no less than 24# (pounds) anchoring each leg, and 50# for market umbrellas.

Weights should be secured in a manner that does not create a safety hazard:

- Weights should not cause a tripping hazard
- Weights should be tethered with lines that are clearly visible
- Weights should have soft edges to avoid causing cuts and scrapes
- Weights should be securely attached
- Weights should be on the ground (NOT above people's heads)

Always be prepared:

You should always have your canopy secured to the ground. It is not enough to have the tools necessary to secure your canopy on hand if you do not employ them. Strong gusts can come up without warning anywhere, at any time.

SEE REVERSE FOR EXAMPLES OF CANOPY WEIGHTS

Examples of Good Canopy Weights

- Filling an empty bucket (2.5 gallon works great) with cement and tying this to each corner of the tent with a rope or bungee. It is NOT sufficient to place the bucket on the feet of the canopy.
- Filling buckets/containers with sand/cement that can be anchored or secured with a rope or bungee; these include canvas bags or plastic buckets/containers that have a handle through which a rope or bungee can be secured.
- Sandbag weights that are specially made for securing canopies and weigh at least 24 pounds. These sandbag weights are vertical and can be strapped to the legs of the canopy.
- PVC pipe, capped and filled with cement can be hung on the inside of canopy poles (as long as it is secured so that it does not collide with customers).
- The best weights are strapped to the bottom of each leg, and then tethered via a bungee to the top corner of the canopy, thus lowering the center of gravity of the canopy. In a strong gust of wind, even canopies secured with enough weight, can be broken if the weights are not suspended from the top corners of the canopy.

Examples of Bad Canopy Weights

- Gallon water jugs are not heavy enough for large gusts of wind. One gallon of water weighs 8 pounds.
- Tying tents, canopies or umbrellas to tables, coolers or vehicles provides tripping hazards and frequently does not provide adequate weight.
- Sandbags that cannot be placed upright and securely tied to the tent or canopy should not be used.
- In addition to not providing enough grip to prevent a canopy from taking flight in a strong gust of wind, tent stakes are barely visible to shoppers and can cause a serious tripping hazard to an unsuspecting customer.
- At all costs, avoid stretched out cords and lines.