

Resources - Guides

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Open House Planning Guide



Graduation season is a popular time for open house celebrations, often held in backyards under tents. If you're planning an event, or if it's been a while since your last one, these tips will help make the process easier.

Choosing the Right Tent Size

When hosting an open house, you don't need seating for every guest at once. People will arrive at different times, and not everyone will want to sit under the tent.

A good rule of thumb is to choose a tent that can accommodate about **half of your total guest list**. For example, if you invite 100 guests, plan for seating for around 50 people under a tent.

Essential Equipment

Basic rental items typically include:

- Tent
- Tables and chairs
- Table covers
- Trash and recycling containers

You may also want to consider:

- Food service equipment (such as chafing dishes)
- Lighting (especially for evening events)



Equipment Availability & Booking

Rental equipment is limited, especially during graduation season. Reservations often begin as early as January, and by the end of April, availability for the busiest weekends—typically the first three weekends in June—is very limited or fully booked.

To avoid the rush, many people choose to host events in late May, late June, or July. If you're planning for early June, it's best to reserve your equipment as soon as possible.

Tent Installation & Staking Requirements

All tents must be securely anchored using stakes, typically 30"–40" long, placed around the perimeter.

Before installation:

- All underground utilities must be clearly marked.
- This includes sprinkler systems and septic fields (marked by the homeowner).
- Utility marking services, such as Miss Dig, are available at no cost to identify underground lines. Contact Miss Dig by calling **(800) 482-7171**.
- **At least 72 hours' notice** is required to schedule utility marking.

For safety reasons, Delux Tents Mid Michigan will not install a tent unless the installation area has been properly marked.

Graduation open houses are generally easy to plan and enjoyable for both hosts and guests. There are many helpful resources available to guide you through the process before booking.

If you have questions or need assistance, our team is always happy to help. Good luck with your planning, and congratulations to all graduating seniors! 🎓



Thank you for your business