



Safety & Compliance

Keep guests safe and your venue compliant

Disclaimer

Compliance requirements vary significantly by city, county, and state. Always verify with your local building department, fire marshal, and health department. This guide is a starting point, not a substitute for professional advice.

Occupancy & Building Safety

Know your legal occupancy and post it visibly. Never exceed it — fire marshals do show up to events.

Maintain clear emergency exits. They should be unlocked, well-lit, and unobstructed at all times during events.

Install and test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors quarterly.

Keep fire extinguishers accessible and inspected annually.

ADA Accessibility

Public venues must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Key requirements: accessible entrance, accessible restroom, ramp access where needed, and at least one accessible parking spot.

Disclose any accessibility limitations honestly in your listing — guests appreciate transparency far more than surprises.

Food Safety

If food is served from your kitchen, you'll likely need a current food service permit and at least one certified food manager on staff.

If guests bring outside catering, make sure caterers carry their own insurance and food handler certifications.

Provide handwashing stations for catering staff.

Alcohol Service

Serving alcohol requires a license. Letting guests bring their own (BYOB) requires a different permit in many jurisdictions.

Train any staff in responsible alcohol service (TIPS, ServSafe Alcohol).

Never serve a visibly intoxicated guest. Liability for over-service can be severe.

Noise & Neighbor Compliance

Know your local noise ordinance. Most cities require music to be turned down by 10 PM in residential-adjacent areas.

Set clear end times in your contract and enforce them. One angry neighbor can shut you down with a single complaint.

Day-of Safety Checklist

- Exits unlocked and unobstructed.
- Fire extinguishers visible.
- First-aid kit stocked and accessible.
- Spill cleanup supplies on hand.
- Emergency contact list posted.
- Walking surfaces clear of cords and obstacles.
- Lighting adequate in all guest areas, especially restrooms and parking.