



A New Law Governing the Use of Tents and Other Shading Devices on the Beach in North Myrtle Beach

In December 2010, the North Myrtle Beach City Council passed a new law governing the use of tents and other shading devices on the beach in North Myrtle Beach. The law is now in effect.

The new law was necessary due to the increased use of tents and other large shading devices on the beach, which sometimes blocked public safety and emergency rescue personnel from gaining swift access to people in trouble on the beach or in the water.

These are the highlights of the new law:

- No shading devices (tents, umbrellas, pavilions, canopies, etc.) may be set up on the beach before 8am daily.
- Shading devices must be removed from the beach by 7pm daily.
- Shading devices left on the beach after 7pm will be collected by the City and stored for up to 30 days. Owners can reclaim their tents during that period but must pay a \$40 fee, which goes to pay for the labor required to collect, tag and store tents left on the beach after 7pm.
- Shading devices, other than umbrellas, must be located landward of the City umbrella line or, if no City umbrella lines exists, the high tide mark.
- All shading devices must be located 20-25 feet seaward of dune line. This frees up a lane along the high tide beach for Rescue and Safety vehicles to use in the event of an emergency.
- No shading device may be larger than 12 feet x 12 feet or a total 144 square feet.
- No shading device may be higher than 9-feet installed.
- Shading devices may not be joined together in any manner.
- Shading devices, other than umbrellas, must be placed at a minimum of 10 feet from any other shading device.
- Shading devices may not be placed within 10 feet of any lifeguard stand.
- Anchoring lines, if used, may not extend beyond the perimeter of the shading device.
- Violation of the ordinance is punishable by a \$250 fine.

A New Law Governing Digging Holes on the Beach

In July 2011, the North Myrtle Beach City Council passed a law governing the digging of holes on the beach. As is shown in the accompanying photograph, some of the holes being dug on the beach have taken the art of digging to new heights.



When left unattended, these holes do pose a serious safety risk to others who may be walking or running on the beach, and who may be looking elsewhere as they do so. They also pose a risk to beach cleaning and Beach Patrol equipment and related personnel.

The purpose of the law is not to eliminate digging on the beach – you may certainly continue to enjoy that – but to ensure safety for all who desire to enjoy the beach.

Here are the particulars of the new law:

- Any person who digs a hole, trench or depression on the beach that is deeper than 12 inches must fill in that hole before leaving the beach. A fine of \$100 may be levied against those who are determined to ignore the law.