



### Pups on the Patio

On Thursday, May 4, 2023 Mayor Michelle Wu announced an effort to create dog-friendly spaces at beer gardens and outdoor restaurant patios across Boston.

This new effort allows restaurants to create spaces where dog owners and their pets can dine together. All restaurants and beer gardens with outdoor space in Boston can apply for a “Dog Friendly Space” [variance](#) from the Inspectional Services Department. Learn more [here](#)



### Building Safety Month

Building Safety Month (BSM) is a public awareness campaign celebrated by jurisdictions worldwide during the month of May that educates the public about what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

Our Building officials play a major role in keeping the public safe by protecting the public health, safety and welfare through effective code enforcement.



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## Mayor Michelle Wu Celebrate Local Women Working in Construction



Mayor Wu and the Inspectional Services Department celebrated women who work in the building and trades industry. During the celebration Mayor Wu presented a proclamation officially marking May 22nd-26th, 2023 to be Women in Construction Week

Although working in a male dominated field can be intimidating these women demonstrated their strength and perseverance while building a career that they love. In addition, they unknowingly contributed to gender diversity at construction sites including:

- Changing workplace attitudes
- Increasingly growing a supportive community
- Helping grow opportunities for others
- Opening up the door for leadership positions

Click [here](#) to view the full program

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**[A rodent free home is a healthy home!](#)**

Boston Inspectional Services, Environmental Sanitation Division has launched a city wide effort to reduce the rodent population. This operation allows our team of inspectors to educate the public and enforce the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code as it relates to rodent activity.

Inspectors ask residents to do their part by properly disposing and maintaining trash, cleaning up after dogs and eliminating anything that can be considered a food source.

With the support of Mayor Wu and the City Councilors our budget has been increased and continues to support our efforts to mitigate rodent activity throughout the city of Boston.

If you are experiencing an issue related to rodents please call 311 and hire a licensed pest control company to address the issue.

Learn how to make your space rodent free by watching our informational videos:

- [English](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
  - [Webinar](#)
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# Food Safety Tips

Whether you are planning a barbeque for a small or large group, please follow these safety tips.



## Minimize Bacteria Contamination

- Remember to wash your hands with hot soapy water for at least 20 seconds. This will reduce the spread of germs and possible illnesses.
- Prevent bacteria from spreading by thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing: kitchen countertops, sponges, cutting boards and utensils.

## Methods to properly handle meat:

- Be sure to defrost meat in the refrigerator, never defrost meat at room temperature.
- Cook meat at least 165 degrees
- Never re-use platters or utensils that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood.
- Keep raw foods separate from cooked food
- Never use marinades that contain raw meat. If you want to use a marinade on cooked food, reserve a separate portion.
- Rinse fresh fruit and vegetables to minimize the potential bacterial contamination.

## Clean

- Be sure to clean the inside of the grill regularly to avoid a buildup of grease.
- Make sure to clean platters and utensils.

## Proper Temperatures

- Use a food thermometer to make sure your meat and poultry reach a safe internal temperature. Hamburgers should be cooked to 160°F and chicken 165°F.
- Grilled food can be kept hot until served by moving it to the side of the rack.
- Food should not be left out of the cooler or off of the grill for more than two hours. If the outside temperature is above 90° the limit is one hour.
- Refrigerate leftovers, never leave leftovers on the stove.

Click [here](#) for more safety tips

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## Deck Safety Tips



With summer upon us, the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) would like to remind Boston residents to use precaution when utilizing decks, porches, balconies and rooftops for any outdoor activity. These structures should be used for its intended purpose while keeping in mind its allotted capacity.

The following are useful safety tips to keep in mind when occupying outdoor structures:

- Maintain situational awareness for the load the deck is carrying, overloading the intended capacity may compromise the structure.
- Consider the number of people along with outdoor furniture to assess if a structure is being utilized properly.
- Take the age of the structure into consideration. Homeowners should be aware of the structural integrity of their porches and decks. Older decks are built to the standards of earlier editions of the state building and zoning codes and may need to be updated to current codes.
- Remember, before making any necessary repairs, property owners must hire a licensed contractor and secure all required [permits](#) before work can proceed.

It is illegal to use portable charcoal propane and gas operated cooking grilles on the following structures:

Click [here](#) for more building safety tips

# Join Us

# HOUSING CODE WEBINAR

TO SIGN UP, SCAN THE QR  
CODE OR VISIT  
[BIT.LY/SAFEHOUSING2023](https://bit.ly/safehousing2023)



**Paul Halfmann**  
Public Health Consulting, LLC



**Evangeline Maxwell**  
Asst. Commissioner



**Regina Hanson**  
Asst. Director



City of Boston  
Inspectional Services

This seminar is to educate residential property homeowners of the recent updates of the [Massachusetts Sanitary Code](#) also known as the Housing Code. These amendments promote healthy and safe living conditions, as well as flexibility for local boards of health to address emergent issues, including climate change variability. Safe housing is a necessity for every resident of the city of Boston and vital for healthy communities.

In addition, the updated regulations outline the minimum standards of fitness for human habitation and is the standard that all landlords must all follow when renting property in Massachusetts.

## INSPECTIONAL SERVICES NEIGHBORHOOD HIGHLIGHTS



**Mattapan Coffee Hour**



**Brighton Coffee Hour**



**Roxbury neighborhood  
walk with Code  
Enforcement**



**Allston neighborhood  
walk with Councilor Liz  
Breadon**

*ISD has a team of community liaisons and staff members who are ready to assist you! Do you have a neighborhood issue to bring to our attention? Please email [ISD@boston.gov](mailto:ISD@boston.gov) or call 617-635-5300*

Click [here](#) to learn more about our Constituent Services Division



City of Boston

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