

SIDEWALK VENDING VEHICLE FAQ's

DISCLAIMER

This document is intended to provide answers to the most asked questions about sidewalk vending within the City of Sacramento. The answers provided are for informational purposes only and are NOT intended to be exhaustive. Please see Sacramento City Code Chapter 5.90 (Sidewalk Vending) for comprehensive information.

WHAT IS SIDEWALK VENDING?

“Sidewalk vending” means selling or offering for sale food, drink, or merchandise from a cart or one’s person from a public sidewalk or pedestrian path.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SIDEWALK VENDING?

Yes, sidewalk vendors may be either a stationary vendor or a roaming vendor.

Stationary vendor stays in one location while they operate.

Roaming vendors stop only to complete a transaction.

WHAT TYPE OF PERMITS DO I NEED TO BECOME A SIDEWALK VENDOR?

You will need a Sidewalk Vending Permit from the City of Sacramento.

Any business operating within the City of Sacramento is required to have a Business Operations Tax (BOT) certificate. You will be unable to proceed with your sidewalk vending permit until a BOT is obtained, which may be completed here:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Finance/Revenue/Business-Operation-Tax>

HOW MUCH SPACE DO I NEED?

Pedestrians must be able to use 50% of the sidewalk, or five feet, whichever is greater. Areas in Old Sacramento and the central city require six feet of sidewalk remain accessible.

If your cart obstructs 51% of the sidewalk or does not leave five accessible feet, you will not be issued a permit for that location and may be eligible for administrative penalties.

CAN I VEND IN CITY PARKS?

Yes. The City of Sacramento does issue Sidewalk Vending Permits in public parks. Be sure to indicate on your application that you are applying for a location in a park

WHAT CAN I SELL?

You can sell food or merchandise with your sidewalk vending permit. If you are selling food or drinks, your cart must be approved by the County of Sacramento Environmental Management Department. You cannot sell illegal items. You cannot sell alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis products with a Sidewalk Vending Permit

CAN I SELL FOOD?

Yes, you may sell food. If you plan on selling any food or drink items, please obtain a County of Sacramento Health Permit prior to applying for a City of Sacramento Sidewalk Vending Permit. Your application will not be accepted by the City without a health permit. You can learn more about the County's requirements here:

<https://emd.saccounty.net/EH/FoodProtect-RetailFood/Pages/default.aspx>

WHAT DO I NEED TO SUBMIT FOR MY PERMIT?

The City's permit application form, photos of your cart, photos of the vending location with cart/table set up (stationary only), a copy of your driver's license or identification card, a copy of your Sacramento County Health Permit (if selling food or drink), two passport sized photos of each vendor. The City may request additional information in order to process the permit.

ARE THERE TIME RESTRICTIONS ON VENDING?

Yes, there are time restrictions on vending dependent on your vending location. If you are next to a residential property, you may only vend 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. between the months of April and October and 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. between the months of November and March.

No stationary sidewalk vending is permitted next to a vacant lot or residential property.

WHAT OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON SIDEWALK VENDING ARE THERE?

- Sidewalk Vendors are not permitted to operate within 400 feet of a school between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days
- Sidewalk Vendors are not permitted to operate within 600 feet of any entertainment establishment (e.g., clubs) within the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 2:30 a.m.
- Sidewalk Vendors are not permitted to operate within 300 feet of a special event or outdoor market (including a farmers' market) during its hours of operation

WILL I BE FINGERPRINTED AS PART OF THE PERMIT PROCESS?

No. The City does not require applicants to be fingerprinted. The Sacramento Police Department will run a local background check using the vendors date of birth and driver's license number. This must be completed by each person who will be operating the cart and the fee is \$25 per person.

CAN I GET IN TROUBLE IF MY CUSTOMERS THROW TRASH ON THE GROUND?

Yes. The Sacramento City Code requires the vendor to properly dispose of any waste generated by your operation. Failure to do so can result in an administrative penalty and/or the suspension of your permit.

MY SON OPERATES MY CART FOR ME ON THE WEEKEND. DO I NEED AN ADDITIONAL PERMIT?

You do not need an additional permit, but your son will need to become an approved operator. The City will need him to complete an application and will conduct a local background check. You will also need to provide two passport sized photos of your son. Your permit will list all approved operators.

I HAVE A CART I PUSH ALONG AND SELL FROM. I DO NOT STAY ANYWHERE FOR LONG. WHAT TYPE OF PERMIT DO I NEED?

You will need to obtain a Roaming Sidewalk Vendor Permit

I WANT TO SET UP RIGHT NEXT TO THE FARMERS' MARKET. IS THAT ALLOWED?

Sacramento City Code prohibits sidewalk vendors from operating within 300 feet of an outdoor market (including a farmers' market) during the hours of operation. This rule applies *even* if you have a permit for that location. For example, if you are permitted on the corner next to Cesar Chavez Park, you will not be able to vend during the hours of the Wednesday Farmers' Market. Please consider this when picking a location to operate.

I LIKE TO SET UP MY CART AT ONE LOCATION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AND ANOTHER LOCATION ON SATURDAY. WHAT TYPE OF PERMIT DO I NEED?

You should obtain a Stationary Vending Permit and then add a location.

CAN ANOTHER VENDOR SET UP RIGHT NEXT TO ME?

In most locations of the City, vendors must remain 100 feet apart.

WHEN DOES MY PERMIT EXPIRE?

All Sidewalk Vending Permits expire on July 31 the year following the date of issuance. This means if you received your Sidewalk Vending Permit in April 1, 2020 it will expire July 31, 2021. You will need to renew your permit by July 31 each year. Renewal applications are accepted June 1-June 30 each year.