

SIDEWALK VENDING

A sidewalk vendor is a person who sells food or merchandise from a pushcart, stand, display, pedal-driven cart, wagon, showcase, rack or other nonmotorized conveyance, or from one's person, upon a public sidewalk or other pedestrian path.

To ensure a seamless transition into full and compliant operations, the City of Santa Monica has created this Sidewalk Vendor Packet.

Sidewalk Vendor Packet Contents

- Sidewalk Vending FAQs
- Business License Application

Getting Started

The information below provides a general overview of the agencies that you may need to contact before you begin your sidewalk vending business.



SENATE BILL 946

On September 17, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 946. This legislation regulates sidewalk vending practices.

Important Contact Information

Los Angeles County Clerk

11701 S. La Cienega Blvd. 6th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
<https://www.lavote.net/>
(800) 201-8999

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Environmental Health

5050 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>
(888) 700-9995

California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

5901 Green Valley Circle, Ste. 200
Culver City, CA 90230
<https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/>
(310) 342-1000

City of Santa Monica Business License Office

1717 4th Street, Ste. 150
Santa Monica, CA 90401
www.smgov.net/businesslicense
(310) 458-8745



SIDEWALK VENDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How is a Sidewalk Vendor defined?

A sidewalk vendor is a person who sells food or merchandise from a pushcart, stand, display, pedal-driven cart, wagon, showcase, rack or other nonmotorized conveyance, or from one's person, upon a public sidewalk or other pedestrian path.

2. Are there different types of Sidewalk Vendors?

The following definitions apply to sidewalk vending:

- Roaming Sidewalk Vendor- a sidewalk vendor who moves from place to place and stops only to complete a transaction.
- Stationary Sidewalk Vendor- a sidewalk vendor who vends from a fixed location.

3. What permits, and licenses do I need to operate as a sidewalk vendor?

The kind of permits and licenses you need depend on what you are vending. Below is a list of the most common permits and licenses:

- Santa Monica Business License
- Los Angeles County health permit – food vendors only
- California Seller's Permit

4. Where can I conduct my sidewalk vending operations?

Sidewalk Vending can be conducted on sidewalks and pathways if your operations are compliant with all applicable local and county regulations.

5. Do I need to display my business license certificate?

Yes, your business license certificate and any county permits are required to be displayed at all times.

6. How much does it cost to obtain a local business license for sidewalk vending?

Currently, a sidewalk vendor shall pay the following for the initial application:

Minimum License Tax	CASp	Amount Due
\$75.00	\$4.00	\$79.00

7. Are there any exemptions available for the application costs?

Small businesses, defined as businesses that earn less than \$40,000 in worldwide gross receipts in a calendar year, can apply for exemption from paying business license tax. Even if an exemption from the license tax is granted, a business license is still required. The Small Business Exemption applies ONLY to the annual business license tax. Exempt businesses must still pay all other applicable fees.

8. Do I have to comply with the City's Disposable Food Service Ware (DFSW) and the Single-use Carry-out Bag Ordinances?

Sidewalk food vendors must also comply with DFSW ordinance which bans all single-use plastic service ware for prepared foods; this includes straws, utensils, plates, bowls, trays, containers, stirrers, lids, plugs, cups, and lids. It further requires that all marine degradable disposable straws and utensils be provided to customers only upon request. For more information, please visit www.smgov.net/foodware.

Sidewalk vendors must also comply with the Single-use Carry-out Bag ordinance which prohibits all retail establishments in Santa Monica from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale. Sidewalk food vendors may use single-use plastic carry out bags for take-out orders intended for consumption away from the food provider's premises. For more information, please visit www.sustainablesm.org/bag.

9. Can I vend at the farmer's market, swap meet or a temporary special event?

SB 946 grants local authorities the ability to prohibit sidewalk vending in areas located within the immediate vicinity of a permitted certified farmers' market, swap meet, or a temporary special event.

10. Can I vend from a bicycle cart on the sidewalk?

It is unlawful to ride or operate a bicycle on the public sidewalk. If your cart includes a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device, it must be walked on the sidewalk.

11. Can I leave my vending cart unattended?

Per Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) 3.12.360, "no person shall upon any public sidewalk, street, right-of-way, streetscape, public building, or other public facility leave any property or other item unattended for a period of longer than ten minutes."