



CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Simple Tables and Chairs Guidelines

TABLES AND CHAIRS ONLY

The Simple Tables and Chairs Sidewalk Dining Program is reduced fee program to allow sidewalk dining for tables and chairs only and not surrounded by a barrier, fence, guardrail etc... All Santa Monica fees typically associated with sidewalk dining permits, license and reviews have been waived, however a one-time, per-seat fee due to the City of Los Angeles for wastewater treatment is due prior to approval of a Simple Tables and Chairs approval. Participation in the program requires completing the self-certified online application and submitting proof of insurance annually. Only complete applications can be submitted.

If you wish to include a barrier around your sidewalk dining area, please submit through the City's [Simple Tables and Chairs Permit application](#).

What you will need to get started

1. Completed application.
2. Insurance that meets [Simple Tables & Chairs Program requirements](#).
3. Sidewalk Dining applications requesting Tables & Chairs only (no barriers) are exempt from all fees (e.g. no permit application fee, no monthly license fees) but may be subject to one-time Los Angeles Wastewater Capital Facility (LAWCF) Fee as described at the bottom of the Simple Tables & Chairs [Program Page](#) for any additional (net new) seats added to the business' operations. The LAWCF Fee is only applicable to net new seats for the restaurant. If 10 seats are proposed on the sidewalk dining area but 2 seats were removed on the inside the net increase subject to the LAWCF Fee is only be 8 seats ($10 - 2 = 8$).

Example site plans can be downloaded from the links below:

[City Wide Example Site Plan](#)

[Ocean Avenue Example Site Plan](#)

[3rd Street Promenade Example Site Plan](#)

ELIGIBLE USES:

1. Sidewalk dining shall be associated with a legally established restaurant or other eating/drinking establishment.

2. Temporary, mobile, or freestanding food service providers or vendors are not eligible.
3. Establishments that wish to serve alcoholic beverages within a sidewalk dining area must meet all applicable [California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control \(ABC\)](#) and any City-wide alcohol requirements.

GENERAL STANDARDS:

1. These sidewalk dining standards are applicable to all non-residentially zoned districts.
2. Additional parking spaces are not required for sidewalk dining.
3. The elevation of the sidewalk dining area shall be at sidewalk level
4. All sidewalk dining areas shall be fully accessible, as required by the American with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.
5. The sidewalk dining area should promote a visual relationship to the street and eating/drinking establishment to which it is ancillary.
6. There shall be no addition to the building in the public right-of-way.
7. Sidewalk Dining Operations must comply with SMMC Section 4.12.060 requirements for exterior noise standards. All forms of speaker amplifications in the dining area are prohibited.

PATH OF TRAVEL:

The California Building Code (“CBC”) that was adopted by the City requires a clear path of at least 4’-0” between the edge of the proposed sidewalk dining furniture and any obstructions such as parking meters, benches, tree wells, signs, pedestrian ramps, etc. In addition to the CBC’s minimum path of travel, sidewalk dining furniture must be set back from the back of curb as follows:

1. **Third Street Promenade:** An unobstructed path of at least 4’-0” (or 5’-0” at bike racks) shall always be provided running parallel to the Promenade. The unobstructed path of travel shall be measured from the building side of whichever tree well is closest to the street. Along wider sections of the Promenade the path shall be along the second tree well (usually a Jacaranda) and along narrower sections the path shall be measured from the first tree well (usually a palm). [3rd Street Promenade Example Site Plan](#)
2. **Ocean Avenue:** A distance of no less than 8’-0” shall be maintained between the edge of the sidewalk dining furniture and the back of the curb. [Ocean Avenue Example Site Plan](#)
3. **Citywide:** A distance of no less than 5’-0” shall be maintained between the edge of the sidewalk dining furniture and the back of the curb and 5’-0” at bike racks. [City Wide Example Site Plan](#)

4. No dining at intersection corners: A corner clearance space delineated by a 5' outward extension from the pedestrian ramp along the curb face and then extending back to the private property line.
5. A 5'-0" separation must be maintained between sidewalk dining and an alley or driveway.

PROPANE HEATERS:

1. Propane heaters require an annual permit from the Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD). If storing more than one tank on-site, a separate SMFD permit is required.
2. Only one additional propane tank can be stored on-site. Propane tanks cannot be stored inside or under coverings. They must be stored in an upright fixed position to prevent damage and potential leaks.
3. Propane heaters may not be placed underneath overhead covers, awnings, or trellises, inside buildings or tents, and they must have a 5'-0" clearance from any flammable/combustible materials. A permit for use of propane heaters will not be issued with a trellis or overhead covering, unless covering is retractable.
4. Propane heaters must maintain a 6'-0" vertical and horizontal clearance from any street tree.
5. A final on-site SMFD permit inspection will be conducted to ensure proper spacing of propane heaters from combustibles and emergency access/egress.

LIGHTING:

1. Lighting fixtures may be permanently affixed onto the exterior front of the sidewalk dining operator's principal building with a building permit.*
2. Table lamps using liquid fuel or candles require an annual SMFD permit and must comply with Uniform Fire Code design standards*

FURNITURE:

1. The furnishings for the sidewalk dining area shall consist only of movable tables, chairs, umbrellas, planters, and other City approved portable fixtures.
2. Furniture must be movable and may not be affixed to the public right-of-way.
3. Permanent heaters require a separate building permit. Portable heaters require an annual permit from the Santa Monica Fire Department.*
4. Furniture shall be placed immediately adjacent to the subject business.
5. Furniture and furnishings must be stored on or up against private property outside operating hours and must be secured when not in use.

REFUSE:

1. No refuse and/or recycling enclosures or storage is allowed on the public right-of-way or within the sidewalk dining area.
2. Sidewalk dining areas must always remain clear of litter.

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

1. Business operators are responsible for operating the sidewalk dining area in compliance with City rules.
2. Sidewalk dining areas are for sit-down service only; patrons who are standing within the sidewalk seating area shall not be served.
3. Sidewalk dining shall always be conducted in a manner not detrimental to surrounding properties by reason of lights, noise, activities, or other actions. The business operator shall control noisy patrons leaving the business.
4. At the end of the business day, establishments are required to clean (sweep and mop) the area in and around the sidewalk dining area.
5. The hours of operation for a sidewalk dining area may not exceed the hours of operation of the associated food service establishment.
6. At all times, evidence of the current Simple Tables and Chairs Sidewalk Dining approval must be available at the business where sidewalk dining is located for City's inspection during the hours that the establishment is open for business.
7. The required Path of Travel shall be maintained at all times, including during non-business hours when furniture is stored.

ENTERTAINMENT ZONE (EZ) SIDEWALK BAR

1. Businesses with an approved sidewalk dining area and that have a valid EZSM Participation Agreement may install a temporary bar within a sidewalk dining area for service of alcoholic beverages directly to the Entertainment Zone during an activation of the Entertainment Zone and subject to restrictions of the applicable Management Plan.
2. Sidewalk dining operators shall procure all required local, county, and state licenses/permits prior to operating the outdoor bar, including a license to serve alcoholic beverages from the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control.
3. The sidewalk bar shall not be affixed to the public right-of-way and shall be movable.
4. The bar cannot encroach onto the ADA required minimum unobstructed path of travel or ingress or egress path of travel.

5. Licensee must remove the bar from the sidewalk dining area when there is no activation within the Entertainment Zone and when outside the operating hours of the Entertainment Zone.

“*” Please note: these additional permits (e.g. Building Safety, Fire Propane Lamp) will incur a fee.