



City of Pittsburgh

SIDEWALK CAFE APPROVALS

WHAT ARE THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS?

Sidewalk cafes must be directly abutting a functioning restaurant with a valid retail food license and an occupancy permit. They must be located on a sidewalk large enough to accommodate the cafe plus a 5 foot pedestrian access way.

WHAT DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS MUST BE MET?

- The sidewalk cafe is limited to the width of the frontage of the restaurant which it directly abuts.
- The portion of the right-of-way to be used may be no greater than one-half of the space measured between the outside face of the curb and the property line.
- A 5-foot minimum unobstructed pedestrian passageway must be provided between the curb and the cafe.
- No obstruction shall be placed within 18 inches of the face of any curb, within 5 feet of any fire exit, fire hydrant, or building corner.
- Sidewalk cafes must be the same elevation as the public sidewalk. Paint, carpeting, turf or other coverings is not allowed.

WHAT MAY BE IN THE SIDEWALK CAFE?

- The sidewalk cafe may include moveable tables and chairs only, to be used by customers.
- Umbrellas may be used if they are completely within the cafe, no edges or prongs may protrude.
- No standing room, music, service equipment, signage (except small lighted menu boards), cashier stations, or trash receptacles may be in the cafe or on the sidewalk.

WHAT ABOUT THE ENCLOSURE?

- The sidewalk cafe area shall be separated from the designated pedestrian passageway by a removable rope and stanchion surrounding the perimeter.
- The height of the barrier must be approximately 3 feet and removed when the cafe is closed. Any holes in the sidewalk shall be capped when the barrier is not in place.
- The barrier should be high quality. Plastic is discouraged.

WHAT ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

- Federal accessibility standards must be met.
- One table must be ADA compliant.

WHAT ARE THE OPERATIONAL STANDARDS?

- Operation must be during the normal business hours, but no earlier than 7:00 a.m. and no later than 2:00 a.m.
- Furnishings must be kept in a state of good repair and in a clean and safe condition at all times.
- Furnishings and rope and stanchion must be off the sidewalk by close of business, but no later than 2:00 a.m. each evening. Rope and stanchion must also be removed at that time.
- Permittees are bound by all applicable rules for alcohol and tobacco consumption, including state statutes and City ordinances.
- The sidewalk surface in the sidewalk cafe area shall be maintained in good repair.
- Sanitary cleaning of the sidewalk café dining area before, during, and after food service is required.
- On-site copies of the BBI certificate of occupancy for a sidewalk cafe and the certified site plan must be maintained. Both shall be presented on request from an enforcement official from Public Safety, DPW, BBI, or other authorized representative of the City. The DPW sidewalk cafe permit shall be displayed in the front window, clearly visible from the street.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE ON MY SITE PLAN?

Plans must be drawn and stamped by an architect or engineer and have clear identification of:

- Restaurant and proposed cafe, including address, parcel number, adjacent streets, contact information and scale of drawing.
- Width of restaurant storefront.
- Square footage of the encroachment and cafe.
- Entries and exits to restaurant storefront.
- Entries and exits to sidewalk cafe.
- Layout of tables and chairs, including umbrellas.
- Barrier system, along with passageway/aisle clearances and their measurements, including height.
- Other obstructions, including light poles, traffic signal poles, fire hydrants, utility structures, bike racks, parking meters, street trees and street signs.

HOW LONG DOES THE PERMIT LAST?

Annual renewals are needed from Public Works only. The entire approval process must be completed again only if the site plan has changed.

SIDEWALK CAFE CHECKLIST

APPLICANT STEPS

1 Public Works, 611 2nd Street, Pittsburgh, 7 AM to 3 PM, 412-255-2765

Speak with Public Works to obtain the necessary paperwork and verify minimum sidewalk width. Then, develop a site plan, complete the paperwork and make the application to Public Works. It is helpful to call in advance and set up a time to come in. The following documentation and payment is required:

- Site plan (see opposite page) drawn to scale and stamped by a registered architect or engineer.
- Photograph of the cafe frontage and description of outdoor furniture, including dimensions and catalog specs if known.
- Pre-printed Acceptance Form signed by the Property Owner acknowledging the conditions and requirements.
- Pre-printed Consent Petition from abutting property owners, left and right, that is witnessed and notarized, with signatures of applicant, property owner, and the abutting property owners.
- Undated Check or Money Order for \$150 plus \$1 for each SF of cafe area, payable to Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh.
- Certificate from proprietor's insurance naming the City as coinsured with minimum amounts of \$100,000 to \$300,000 for Public Liability and \$50,000 for Property.

Public Works will conduct a field check to verify the accuracy of the site plan.

2 Zoning Office, 200 Ross Street, 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh, 8 AM - 3 PM, 412-255-2470

After the paperwork is verified by Public Works, the application is marked accepted. Proceed to Zoning, where the site plan will be reviewed for dimensional compliance, the occupancy permit will be verified, and the proposed rope and stanchion device is evaluated. It is helpful to call in advance and set up a time to come in. The following documentation and payment is required:

- Site plan (see opposite page) drawn to scale and stamped by a registered architect or engineer.
- Image of Rope and Stanchion Device. Photo or catalog/web image acceptable.
- Check or Money Order for \$25, Payable to Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh.
- Accepted Application from Public Works.

3 BBI, 200 Ross Street, 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh, 8 AM - 3 PM, 412-255-2181

If approved, Zoning will issue a voucher and stamp the site plan as approved. Proceed to the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) with the required documentation listed below. BBI will verify there are no violations on the restaurant parcel and then examine the plan for compliance with accessibility standards and the building code. The following documentation and payment is required:

- Site plan (see opposite page) drawn to scale and stamped by a registered architect or engineer.
- Voucher and site plan approved by Zoning Office.
- Check or Money Order for \$40, Payable to Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh.
- Accepted Application from Public Works.

BBI will contact the applicant to schedule an inspection of the cafe. At this time, the cafe is to be set up by the applicant but may not legally be in use, until all approvals are given.

CITY'S APPROVALS

4 City Council, Department of Public Works and Bureau of Building Inspection

When it is deemed that the application is completed fully and correctly, the Director of Public Works submits the application to the District Council Person. The City Council Member representing the district where the café is proposed shall acknowledge, in writing, having reviewed the application, prior to issuance of the permit.

The Director of Public Works notifies the applicant of the City's decision. If approved, the sidewalk cafe permit is issued by the Department of Public Works. A Department of Public Works representative demarcates the margins of the approved sidewalk cafe on the sidewalk.

An occupancy permit is issued by BBI and mailed to the applicant.

Please note that this document is intended to guide the applicant through the sidewalk cafe approval process. Please refer to Pittsburgh Code sections 416.08 and 911.04.A.68 for complete requirements.