

PENALTIES

Violation of Article 5.2 of the Public Works Code and/or permit conditions can result in enforcement and corrective action, which may incur fines.

Fines of \$100 to \$300 per violation shall be assessed for the following common violations:

- No Table and Chair Permit
- Permit not available and/or displayed in public view
- Exceeds scope of permitted area
- Missing or non-compliant diverters
- Chairs and/or tables blocking doorway or fire-safety structures
- Not maintaining a clean and litter-free area adjacent to the permitted area



San Francisco Public Works

Street-Use and Mapping

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: (628) 271-2000

San Francisco Public Works

Permit Center

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 200

Processing Hours: Please visit
<https://sf.gov/location/permit-center>
for operating hours of the Permit Center.

- Closed on official holidays



Contact 311 for service requests



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Café Tables and Chairs

Guidelines for placing outdoor seating in the public right of way



Public Works Code Article 5.2 and Public Works Order No. 183,188 regulate the placement of tables and seating on the public sidewalk, courts, alleys or streets where allowed by the Planning Code.



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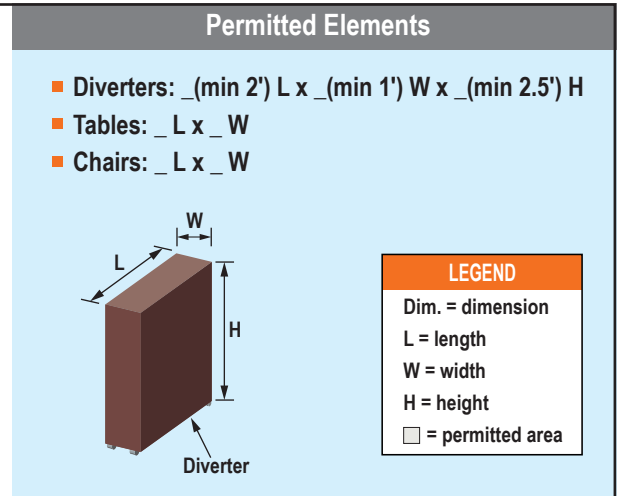
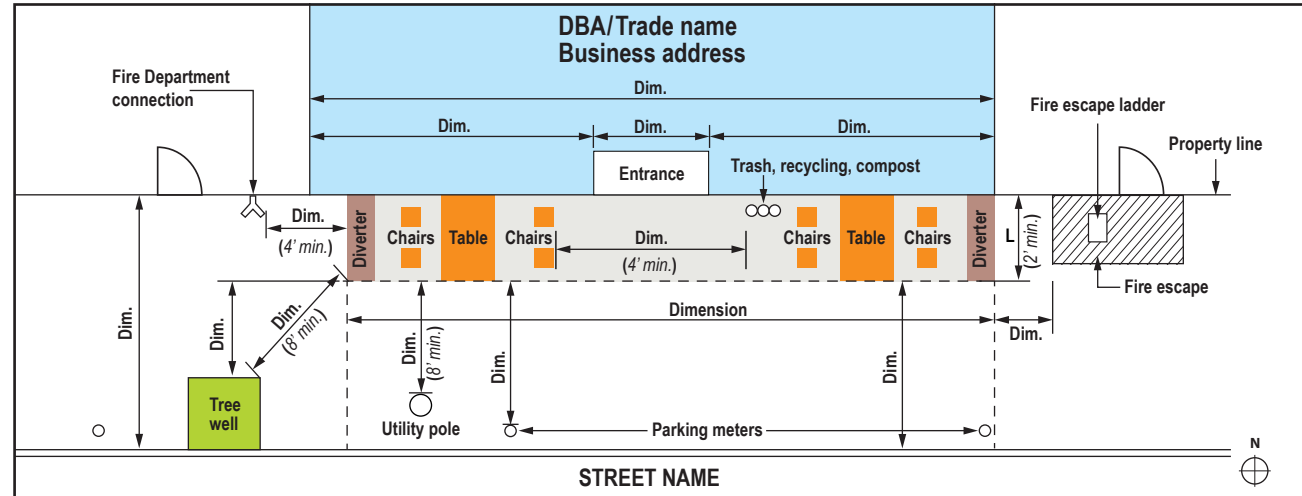
1. WHAT IS A CAFÉ TABLE AND CHAIR PERMIT?

In order to activate the sidewalk environment and encourage economic development, the City has established a permit process through Public Works, allowing restaurants and cafes to provide customers with outdoor seating that enhance the charms and uniqueness for which San Francisco is world famous.

2. HOW DO I APPLY FOR A CAFÉ TABLE AND CHAIR PERMIT?

To submit an application, you may visit the online Shared Spaces application portal at sf.gov/shared-spaces.

Sample diagram for standard tables and chairs (not to scale)



- Certificate of Insurance compliant with Public Works requirements.
- Current San Francisco Business Registration Certificate.
- A computer-generated site plan showing the following, as a minimum (Please refer to the sample diagram):
 - ▶ Entrances to business and nearby buildings
 - ▶ Length of the business frontage
 - ▶ Extension of property lines to street
 - ▶ Sidewalk width
 - ▶ Any obstructions within 15 feet of the permitted area
 - ▶ Width and depth of occupied area
 - ▶ Width of the unobstructed pedestrian pathway along the sidewalk
 - ▶ Fire department connections and fire escapes
 - ▶ Dimensions of diverters, tables and chairs
 - ▶ Location of the recycling, compost and trash receptacles
 - ▶ Clear dimensions and labels

3. WHAT ARE THE PERMIT RESTRICTIONS?

A. Café tables and chairs only may be placed on the sidewalk or pedestrian-only street or alley in front of the applicant's place of business at the property line.

B. When feasible, the sidewalk in front of the business must be wide enough to allow for a minimum of 8 feet wide unobstructed pedestrian through path of travel around the proposed outside seating area. In cases where an eight-foot path of travel is not feasible due to the sidewalk width or obstructions on the sidewalk, a narrower pedestrian path of travel as low as six feet may be considered on a case by case basis.

C. The permitted area must extend not less than 2 feet from the face of building.

D. Placement of tables and chairs on the sidewalk must not in any way interfere with curb ramps or interfere with access to doorways, driveways, fire-safety structures and other facilities, which must be readily accessed.

E. Diverters must not have protruding legs or supports and must be in place during approved hours of operation.

F. Placement of tables and chairs must meet all federal, state and local laws and regulations.

G. Umbrellas must have at least 84 inches of clearance above the surface of the path of travel.

4. WHAT ARE THE PERMIT HOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES?

A. Ensure the occupancy and setup reflects the approved layout.

B. Ensure all activities are within the approved area at all times during use.

C. Ensure food trays or carts, receptacles for dirty dishes and related items shall not be placed or stored on any portion of the sidewalk or permitted area.

D. Ensure all tables, chairs, diverters, etc. be promptly removed from the sidewalk area in accordance with the permitted hours of operation.

E. Must maintain recycling, compost and waste bins within the permitted area at all times.

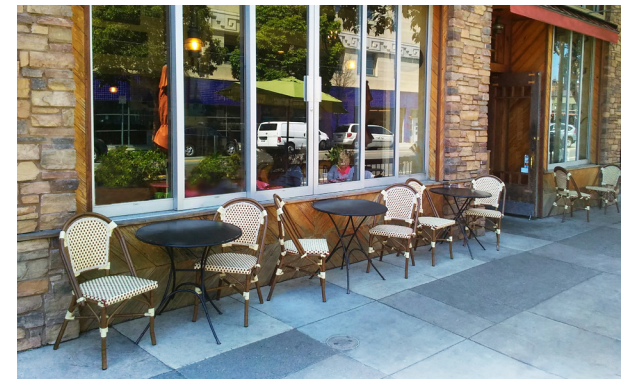
F. Ensure sidewalk areas not be painted, landscaped or altered in any way without prior approval from Public Works.

G. Ensure all permitted elements and the adjacent area be kept free of advertising, litter and other debris at all times.

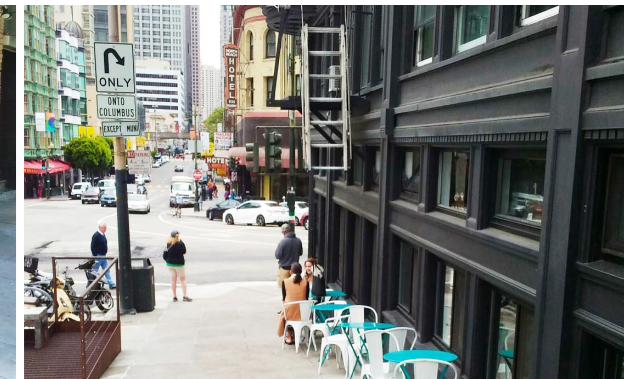
H. Maintain continuous liability insurance compliant with Public Works requirements.

I. Display a copy of the permit and plan on the premises and make it available upon request at all times.

J. Request a renewal no later than 30 days prior to the expiration date of existing permit.



VIOLATION: No diverters



VIOLATION: Blocking Fire Escape