

## PENALTIES

Public Works Code and/or permit conditions may result in enforcement and corrective action being taken, including the issuance of fines and/or seizure of goods.

Fines range from \$100 to \$500 for vendors with permits and from \$250 to \$1,000 for vendors operating without a permit. Fines can be issued to sidewalk vendors for the following unsanctioned activities:

- Operating without a Street Vendor Permit
- Street Vendor Permit not displayed in public view or readily available
- Vending in area not allowed by the permit
- Vending during days and times not allowed by the permit
- The path of travel is obstructed; in most cases, at least 6 feet of clearance is required
- The sidewalk sales block building entrances and exits, fire escapes and Fire Department connections, curb ramps, driveways and transit stops
- The vendor cannot demonstrate proof of ownership for the goods being sold
- Goods not matching description in the permit application
- Sale of the specific goods cause unclean or excessively noisy or odorous conditions



### San Francisco Public Works

#### Street-Use and Mapping

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
StreetVendorPermit@sfdpw.org  
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.



Contact 311 for service requests

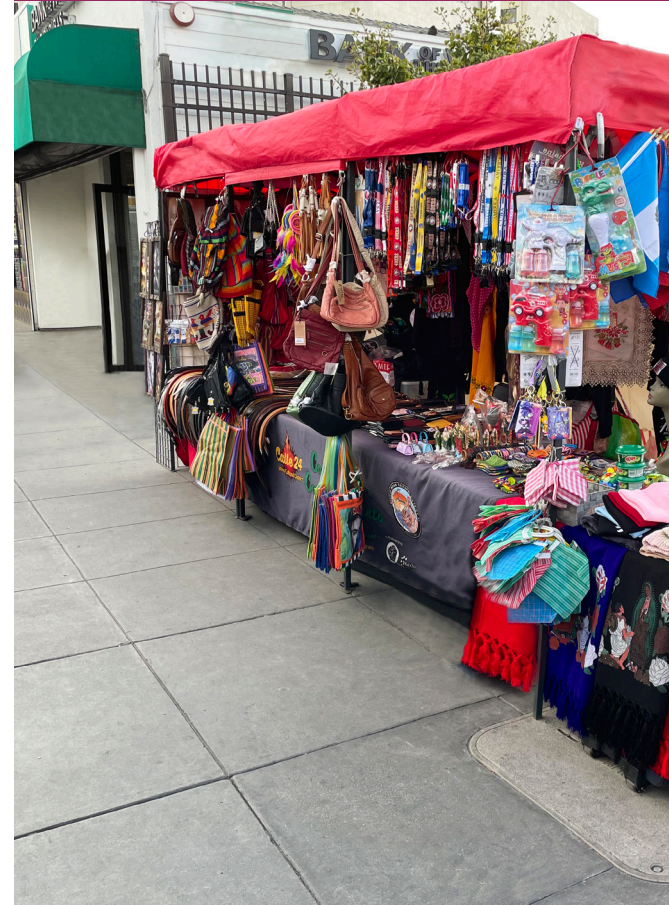


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# Street Vending

Guidelines for vending of merchandise,  
and prepackaged food and drink, within  
the public right of way



Public Works Code Article 5.9, Section 5.9-1 et seq. and Public Works Order No. 206,887, and successor Departmental Orders, regulate vending of merchandise, as well as prepackaged food and drink, within the public right of way. Additional Health Code and Fire Code requirements may apply when prepackaged food or drinks are being sold.



[www.sfpUBLICWORKS.org](http://www.sfpUBLICWORKS.org)



## 1. WHAT IS A STREET VENDOR PERMIT?

The City & County of San Francisco established a Street Vendor Permit Program to support economic opportunity and encourage entrepreneurship in a commercial enterprise with a low barrier to entry, while also serving the public interest by maintaining a safe and accessible public right of way.

Permits can be issued for both stationary or roaming vending activity. Stationary vendors must sell from one or more fixed locations designated in the permit, while roaming vendors may move from place to place and stop only intermittently to complete a transaction.

## 2. HOW DO I APPLY FOR A STREET VENDOR PERMIT?

The City created an online portal for streamlined submission and review of vendor applications. Applications can be submitted online at [www.sf.gov/streetvendorpermit](http://www.sf.gov/streetvendorpermit). The form is available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Filipino.

The following materials must be submitted as part of the permit application:

- ▶ Business Account Number
- ▶ Description of vending location or vending route
- ▶ Documentation verifying low-income status, if seeking a fee waiver or fee reduction
  - ▶ Fees will be invoiced to the applicant after an application is submitted

- ▶ Vending days and hours of operation
- ▶ Items to be sold
- ▶ Photograph of applicant

## 3. WHAT RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE?

**A.** Vendors must operate only at the location(s) listed on their permit and only during the approved times

**B.** On-site vendor must match the photograph and Business Account information submitted in the vendor's permit application; third parties must submit their own application(s)

**C.** Vendors must actively attend to any equipment placed in the right of way and remove the equipment promptly at the conclusion of operations each day

**D.** Vendors may not obstruct utilities or other similar facilities located in the right of way

**E.** Vendors may not obstruct construction or other permitted commercial activity

**F.** Stationary vendors may not operate in areas that are zoned exclusively residential

**G.** Vendors shall maintain a minimum two (2) feet of clearance along the curbside when operating adjacent to existing on-street parallel parking

**H.** Vendors may not operate in proximity of the following locations without written consent from the Director of Public Works:

- ▶ Certified farmers' markets
- ▶ Swap meets
- ▶ City-issued permits for special events
- ▶ United Nations Plaza
- ▶ Hallidie Plaza

**I.** Items sold must be listed on the vendor's issued permit

**J.** The vendor's operation must allow for a straight, unobstructed path of travel for pedestrians; the path must be at least 6 feet wide

**K.** The vendor's operation must allow for larger clearances in the following locations:

- ▶ Eight (8) feet from Street Artist License operators
- ▶ Seven (7) feet from fire hydrants; and
- ▶ Twelve (12) feet from bus zones or blue zones

**L.** Vendors shall not obstruct access to any corner or mid-block accessible curb ramp or sidewalk angular return

**M.** Vendors must not interfere with building entrances, driveways, Fire Department connections or access to fire escapes

## 4. WHAT ARE THE PERMIT HOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES?

**A.** Ensure they sell the goods at the approved location(s)

**B.** Maintain cleanliness of the vending area and limit excessive noise and odors related to the vending operation

**C.** Sidewalk areas may not be painted, landscaped or altered in any way without prior approval from Public Works

**D.** Display a copy of their Street Vendor Permit and Business Registration Certificate in public view while operating

**E.** Be able to demonstrate proof of ownership of goods being sold

**F.** Renew their permit annually in advance of the expiration date

**G.** Comply with the applicable rules and regulations of the San Francisco Department of Public Health and San Francisco Fire Department

Vendors seeking to operate within the jurisdiction of the Port of San Francisco will, in addition to requiring a permit from Public Works, be subject to the siting and operating requirements specified by the Port.



**COMPLIANT:** 6-foot, straight, unobstructed path of travel maintained



**COMPLIANT:** Proof of ownership readily available



**VIOLATION:** Obstructing required path of travel



**VIOLATION:** Selling food or drinks not allowed by the program