

# SEASIDE HOLIDAY LIGHTS COTTAGE FOOD AND VENDING FAQs

The annual neighborhood coordinated light display is not a city-sponsored nor a city-sanctioned event. The decision to decorate is up to each of the homeowners and the City is not in any way involved in that decision-making process. Although not a City event, the City of Torrance provides support to address traffic congestion, ensuring access to first responders, the addition of extra trash containers, and the enforcement of permitted vending. The City Council has directed City staff to ensure all state, county and local regulations are enforced throughout the City of Torrance. All residents and visitors are required to comply with these regulations to ensure a safe and secure experience for all. The City has created the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to provide direction and guidance related to food handling and sales.

## WHAT ARE COTTAGE FOOD OPERATIONS?

California has two classes of **Cottage Food Operations (CFOs)**:

- **Class A CFOs**  
Sell their products directly (in person) and online. They can also ship their products and use a third-party delivery service (e.g., Postmates).
- **Class B CFOs**  
Sell their products directly to the public or indirectly through stores, restaurants, and other wholesale venues. Acquiring a Class B permit is more expensive and requires a home kitchen inspection.

## WHAT CAN I SELL FROM MY HOME?

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is responsible for maintaining the [Approved Cottage Foods List](#) and may add or delete food categories. Notice of any change, the reason for the change, and the nature of the change is posted on the CDPH's [Cottage Food Operations webpage](#). Questions about the Approved Cottage Foods List may be submitted to [FDBRetail@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:FDBRetail@cdph.ca.gov)

**NO PREPACKAGE GOODS (Including, but not limited to, CANDY BARS, CHIPS, COOKIES, SODA, WATER, ETC.)  
ARE ALLOWED TO BE SOLD BY THE RESIDENTS.**

## DOES THE COTTAGE FOOD ORDINANCE ALLOW SALES FROM MY RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAY?

Direct sales are not allowed from an attached garage, accessory residential structure, or any place outside of the residential home. **However, during the period of December 8, 2023 to January 1, 2024, cottage food sales will be allowed within the front yard of the property from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm ONLY.** Staff will be monitoring and evaluating activity during the 2023 Holidays in order to determine if modifications need to be made to the City's Cottage Food Ordinance.



## WHAT ARE THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTS?

All Cottage Food products must be labeled per the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The minimum label requirements include:

- The Cottage Food Business Name and phone number
- The common name of the food product or an adequately descriptive name
- Ingredients listed in descending order of predominance by weight
- Allergen statement if the product contains ANY of the Big 8 Food allergens: Wheat, Milk, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Eggs, Soy, Fish, Shellfish
- The net quantity (count, weight, or volume) of the food product, stated in pounds and grams
- The words "Made in a Home Kitchen" in 12-point font
- The Registration (Class A) or Permit (Class B) number
- The city, state, and zip where the CFO is located
- The words "Issued in Los Angeles County"

## DO I NEED TO MAKE A LABEL FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCT?

Yes. Every Cottage Food product must have its own label including all the information specified above.

## FINES FOR [COTTAGE FOOD ORDINANCE](#) NON-COMPLIANCE

- \$100 - 1st Violation
- \$200 - 2nd Violation
- \$500 - 3rd and each Subsequent Violation

## WHAT IS A SIDEWALK VENDOR?

"Sidewalk vendor" includes "roaming sidewalk vendor"\* and "stationary sidewalk vendor."\*\* A sidewalk vendor is a person who sells food or merchandise from a:

- Pushcart
- Stand
- Display
- Pedal-driven cart
- Wagon
- Showcase
- Rack or other non-motorized conveyance
- Or upon a public sidewalk or other pedestrian path.

\*"Roaming sidewalk vendor" means a sidewalk vendor who moves from place to place and stops only to complete a transaction.

\*\*"Stationary sidewalk vendor" means a sidewalk vendor who vends from a fixed location.

## WHAT TYPE OF LICENSES AND PERMITS ARE REQUIRED TO BECOME A SIDEWALK VENDOR?

All sidewalk vendors in the City of Torrance must have a:

- City-issued Sidewalk Vendor Business License,
- County of Los Angeles Public Health Permit (if selling food/drinks), and
- California-issued Seller's Permit.



## WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS ON WHERE I CAN SIDEWALK VEND?

Roaming sidewalk vending is prohibited in areas with no sidewalks or with extremely narrow sidewalks (six (6) feet wide or less). Stationary sidewalk vending is prohibited in areas zoned residential.

## WHEN CAN I SIDEWALK VEND?

### Hours of Operation:

- Non-Residential Neighborhoods: 8:00 a.m.- 10:00 p.m.
- Residential Areas: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

*Sidewalk vendors that operate before or after daylight must have adequate lighting to ensure the safety of the public and themselves.*

## SIDEWALK VENDING DON'Ts

- No person may intentionally and deliberately obstruct the free movement of anyone on a public right-of-way or other public place, or any place open to the general public. Any person that obstructs or impedes the free passage of pedestrians or public travel, after being requested to immediately move by a police officer, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor (Torrance Municipal Code Section 45.1.4)
- Sidewalk vendors may not vend within five hundred (500) feet of a permitted event for the duration or within operating hours of such an event. Permitted events include but are not limited to farmer's markets, swap meets, or any temporary special permits like filming, parades, sporting events, festivals, carnivals, or outdoor concerts.

## FINES FOR VENDING WITHOUT A VALID SIDEWALK VENDING PERMIT

- \$250 - 1st Violation
- \$500 - 2nd Violation
- \$500 - 3rd and each Subsequent Violation

## FINES FOR VENDING WITH A VALID SIDEWALK VENDING PERMIT BUT VIOLATING THE CITY'S [VENDING ORDINANCE](#)

- \$100 - 1st Violation
- \$200 - 2nd Violation
- \$500 - 3rd and each Subsequent Violation

[Download the Sidewalk Vending Permit Checklist and Guide](#)

