

## What is a 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 from one's person upon a public sidewalk or other pedestrian path. "Sidewalk vendor" includes "roaming sidewalk vendor" and "stationary sidewalk vendor."

- **Permits Required:** All sidewalk vendors in the City of Torrance must have a City-issued Sidewalk Vendor Permit, Business License and a California-issued Seller's Permit. Additional permits are required to sell food or beverages.
- **Hours of Operation:** Sidewalk vending is permitted 8:00 a.m.- 10:00 p.m. in non-residential neighborhoods. Residential areas shall be limited to the hours of 9:00 a.m. through 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.
- **Obstruction of Movement:** 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 Vending Related Special Events, or Locations that Are Subject to Special Permits

- 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.

## Vendors are required to contact these agencies to ensure they are in compliance.

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Apply for Businesses Name

<https://www.Lavote.Gov/Home/County-Clerk>

County of Los Angeles Public Health Public Health  
Permit/License

Apply for Health Permit

<http://Publichealth.Lacounty.Gov/EH/About/Permit.htm>

Telephone: (888) 700-9995

State of California Department of Tax and Fee  
Administration

Apply for Sellers Permit

<https://www.Cdtfa.CA.Gov/Services/#Register-Renewals>

Telephone: (800) 400-7115

City of Torrance Finance Department

Apply for City's Business Licenses

<https://TorranceCA.Gov/Government/Finance/Business-License-and-Permits>

Telephone: (310) 618-5828

QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT:

City of Torrance, Code Enforcement Unit

(310) 618-5929

[www.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov)

City of  
**TORRANCE**  
California

# SAFE SIDEWALK Vending Guide



Dear Sidewalk Vendor,

Welcome to the business community! The City has adopted an ordinance regulating Sidewalk Vending. This flyer is designed to help you through the process of obtaining your Sidewalk Vending Permit. This explains the steps to obtain the permit and some of the general regulations in place to help you operate safely and successfully.

[www.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov)



**SAFE SIDEWALK VENDING REGULATIONS:  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE ALLOWS SIDEWALK VENDING WITH A SIDEWALK VENDING PERMIT.**

**SIDEWALK VENDING PERMIT APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

For a sidewalk vendor permit for Prepared Food, an applicant will need to provide the following\*:

- City Application
- California driver's license or identification card or an individual taxpayer identification number
- Copy of County of Los Angeles Health Permit
- Copy of Food Safety Certificate/Food Handler's Card
- City of Torrance Business License
- The name and current mailing address of the applicant, if the applicant is with a company, the company name and address.
- Proof of Liability Insurance
- Proof of a State of California Seller's Permit

For a sidewalk vendor permit for General Merchandise, an applicant will need to provide the following\*:

- City Application
- California driver's license or identification card or an individual taxpayer identification number
- City of Torrance Business License
- The name and current mailing address of the applicant, if the applicant is with a company, the company name and address.
- Proof of Liability Insurance
- Proof of a State of California Seller's Permit

\*This is a summary of application requirements, which may be subject to change.

**VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:**

In accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 51039 and the City of Torrance Municipal Code 414.1.130 and 12.8.050, penalties may result when:

**Vending without a valid Sidewalk Vending Permit (414.1.130):**

- An administrative fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for the first violation.
- An administrative fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a second violation within one (1) year of the first violation.
- An administrative fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a third violation and each subsequent violation within one (1) year of the first violation.

**All other violations of the general sidewalk vending regulations will be subject to an administrative citation as follows (12.8.050):**

- An administrative fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first violation.
- An administrative fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a second violation within one (1) year of the first violation.
- An administrative fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a third violation within one (1) year of the first violation.
- An administrative fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a fourth and each subsequent violation, and revocation of the sidewalk Vendor Permit. Revocation proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the City.

For a copy of the City's Sidewalk Vendors Ordinance, please visit:

<https://www.Codepublishing.com/CA/Torrance/Html/Torrance04/Torrance0414.html>



**OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Prominently display the valid Public Health Permit and Sidewalk Vending Permit on the cart.
- Maintain a clean and trash-free area.
- Provide a trash receptacle for customers and ensure proper disposal of customer trash. The trash receptacle must be large enough to accommodate customer trash.
- Vending must take place on the sidewalk. No vending to customers located on City streets, crosswalks or to customers within vehicles.
- No amplified sound or loudspeakers are permitted and all activities must comply with the City's noise ordinance.

**Vending in Residential Zoned Areas** - Stationary carts shall not be used to vend within a residential zoned area. A sidewalk vendor may use a mobile cart within a residential zone during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. provided they maintain movement.

**Vending Next to Schools or Freeway Entrance or Exit** - Sidewalk vending is not permitted within two hundred (200) feet of any school property. Sidewalk vending is also prohibited within 100 feet of a freeway entrance or exit.

**Prohibitions on Placement of Stationary and Mobile Carts** - Sidewalk vendors are prohibited from vending from within the street, including any street medians, crosswalks, parking areas or any of the following:

- Where placement impedes the flow of vehicular traffic or parking, such as on public streets or public highways, or would cause vehicles to stop in traffic lanes.
- Where placement impedes the accessible route and flow of pedestrians by reducing the clear width space on a public sidewalk to less than three (3) feet or impedes access to or the use of abutting property, including, but not limited to, residences and places of business, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The clear width of the sidewalk shall be three (3) feet minimum, exclusive of the width of the curb.
- Cart or accessory equipment of a sidewalk vendor may not be chained or fastened to any pole, sign, tree, or other object in the public right-of-way or left unattended.

[www.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov)

