



FAQS REGARDING TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING FOR RESTAURANTS

Does My Business Qualify for Outdoor Seating?

An outdoor seating area may be established at full-service restaurants, limited-service restaurants, and other food services licensed to serve food.

Businesses must follow all minimum guidelines outlined within the <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

I Want to Add Outdoor Seating. Do I Need a Permit?

Yes, a permit is required to set up an outdoor dining area. You will need to apply for a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit if you intend to put your tables and chairs in a privately-owned common area of the restaurants premises.

Where Do I Get a Temporary Outdoor Dining Application?

<https://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/planning>

How Do I Apply?

Send your application and additional documentation as attachments to mrodriguez@norwalkca.gov or bchow@norwalkca.gov

What do I submit?

- A completed and signed Temporary Outdoor Dining Application.
- A site plan or aerial of the site that includes the following:
 - The location of proposed outdoor dining area in relation to your restaurant.
 - The dimensioned boundaries of your outdoor dining area.
 - Identify ADA spaces.
 - Show path of travel to/from and within outdoor dining area.
- Photo of proposed barriers.
- Identify existing exit doors.

Can I Supplement My Site Plan with Photographs?

Photographs can be very helpful. You are encouraged to draw and dimension items right on the photographs.

Is There a Fee with My Application?

No cost permit.

How long is My Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit Good For?

Temporary Outdoor Dining Permits are valid until December 31, 2020, unless extended or terminated earlier by the City.

What are my restrictions?

- All outdoor seating must be spaced at least six feet apart.
- A maximum of 40% of the existing on-site parking spaces required to serve the restaurant may be converted to outdoor dining areas, as set forth in the Norwalk Municipal Code Section 17.03.040.
- Maximum of six (6) chairs per table.
- All areas utilized for outdoor dining area must be made safe for dining by using signage and barriers, and, if necessary, temporarily modifying the traffic flow on the property.
- Access to and from public rights-of-way shall not be blocked or modified unless approved by the City through issuance of an encroachment permit.
- Outdoor dining area should generally be limited to the storefront width.
- For outdoor dining area extending beyond the limits of the restaurant you must provide written consent from the adjacent business in front of which the outdoor dining is proposed.
- A significant physical barrier (such as concrete planters, etc.) must be provided to separate and secure the outdoor dining area from parking areas, walkways, and other outdoor spaces accessible by the general public. Barriers shall be a minimum of 42-inches in height.
- Establishments must maintain an accessible path of travel to/from and within the outdoor dining area at all times that are accessible to patrons. A minimum clearance of 4-feet must be provided within path of travel.
- No seating is allowed within ADA parking spaces.
- Seating shall not obstruct building exit(s).
- Permit required by City of Norwalk and LA County Fire Department for tents/canopies in excess of 400 square feet.
 - Exempted Tents/Canopies:
 - 400 square feet or less.
 - For Individual canopies (must comply with all):
 - 700 square feet in size;
 - Open on all sides; and
 - Minimum clearance of 12-feet is provided to all structures and other tents.
 - For Multiple canopies (must comply with all):
 - Total aggregate area of canopies does not exceed 700 square feet placed side by side without a firebreak clearance of 12-feet; and
 - Minimum clearance of 12-feet is provided to all structures and other tents.

Does My Outdoor Seating Area Need to Be Accessible to a Person in a Wheelchair?

Outdoor dining areas must maintain Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility into and around all dining areas, and must ensure that fire and emergency exits remain accessible and free from obstruction at-all-times.

Do I Need a Liquor License to Serve Alcohol at My Outdoor Seating Area?

Restaurants serving alcohol in a temporary outdoor dining area must first obtain an California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) COVID-19 Temporary Catering Authorization License from the ABC by accessing their website (<https://www.abc.ca.gov/abc-218-cv19-instructions/>) or contacting ABC at 562 982-1337. Only those restaurants that are currently authorized to engage in on-site alcohol sales in the City are permitted to provide alcohol service in a temporary outdoor dining area, and establishments shall strictly comply with all requirements of ABC and the Temporary Catering Authorization License.

At What Times and On What Days Can I Use My Outdoor Seating Area?

Hours of operation are limited to restaurant store hours.

Can I Have Lighting in My Outdoor Seating Area?

Yes, light sources must be shielded and down-ward directed to avoid not affecting passing motorists, unless you are using light strings. If necessary, extension cords may span across sidewalks or walkways, so long as they are placed within a trip prevention device or otherwise secured to the pavement in a manner approved by the City Building Manager.

If your lighting requires permanent electricity, you will need to contact the Building and Safety Division at 562-929-5733 to obtain all necessary permits.

Can I Have Music in My Outdoor Seating Area?

Outdoor music is not permitted.

Can I Set Up a Grill or Other Cook Station in My Outdoor Seating Area?

Outdoor cooking or food preparation is not permitted.

Do I Need to Provide Access to My Bathrooms for Patrons?

Yes, bathrooms must be open for customers and be stocked with soap and/or sanitizer for hand washing.

Can I Put Tables and Chairs In Front of My Neighbor? What About in the Parking Spaces In Front of Their Store?

Outdoor dining areas should generally be limited to the storefront width of the restaurant. For outdoor dining areas extending beyond the limits of the

restaurant storefront width, written consent from the adjacent business in front of which the outdoor dining area is proposed must be provided. Outdoor dining areas may not be in a location which will require patrons or employees to cross a street or parking lot drive aisles.

What If Public Health Guidelines for COVID-19 Change? Can My Approval Be Revoked?

Requirements may be changed without notice to reflect new public health guidelines, and the City can revoke approvals issued in accordance with this Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit for an outdoor seating area at any time, particularly if mandated by the State of California.

These FAQs Have Been Very Helpful, But I Still Have Questions. Who Can I Call?

You can always call the Planning Division at 562-929-5744 or email your questions to Monica Rodriguez at mrodriguez@norwalkca.gov or Beth Chow at bchow@norwalkca.gov.