

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions Sidewalk Patio Permits

Disclaimer: This is not a legal document and does not outline all applicable regulations. Any contradiction, dispute, or difference between the contents of this document and applicable City bylaws, plans, policies, or guidelines will be resolved by reference to the bylaws or other official documents.

Q: What is a Sidewalk Patio Permit and who needs one?

A: A Sidewalk Patio Permit grants permission to a business to occupy public sidewalk for the purpose of a patio or retail display area. Any business wanting to use public sidewalk for customer seating or retail display must first obtain a permit.

Q: Do I need a building permit for my sidewalk patio?

A: A sidewalk patio that complies with Patio Policy C001-07 does not require a building permit.

Q: How do I measure the pedestrian clearance area?

A: Patio Policy C001-07 requires all sidewalk patios to ensure a 1.8 metre pedestrian clearance area is maintained at all times. The clearance is measured from the edge of the patio to the nearest sidewalk obstruction (e.g. edge of tree grate, street furniture, utility pole, etc.)

Q: Can I serve alcohol on my patio?

A: Liquor service requires a valid BC Liquor Licence and the licenced area must be clearly delineated with railings or planters.

Q: Can my patio extend into my neighbours building frontage?

A: Typically patios are limited to the frontage of the business to which they belong. In some cases, patios may extend into neighbouring frontages, with the written consent of the affected business owner.

Q: Can I build a patio on private land (e.g. off-street parking area)?

A: For information related to patios on private land please contact Planning Services at 604-864-5510 or planning-info@abbotsford.ca



Fig.1 Pedestrian Clearance Area