



Austin Transportation Department

Right of Way Management Division

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

Sidewalk Café and Street Patio: Considerations

Below is a list of types of Sidewalk Café and Street Patio options. ***This list is not comprehensive. Email rightofway@austintexas.gov for help, if your work scope is not captured below***

Sidewalk Café

A temporary seating area on the sidewalk in front of your business where food and/or beverages are served.

Seating area MUST:

- Be adjacent to and within the span of the façade of the property
- Be open to the air, except for approved shade elements
- Be secured by balustrades, planters, or other related items, **if alcohol will be served**
- Ensure boundaries are freestanding and not permanently affixed
- Ensure an unobstructed pedestrian path along the sidewalk that is a minimum of six feet wide; greater widths may be required
- Not enclose utility infrastructure or transportation infrastructure, without prior approval

Street Patio

A temporary seating area in a parking space, or spaces, in front of your business where food and/or beverages are served.

Parking space(s) MUST:

- Be adjacent to and within the span of the façade of the property
- Be open to the air, except for approved shade elements
- Be secured by balustrades, planters, or other related items, **if alcohol will be served**
- Provide a continuous physical barrier (a minimum of 36 inches tall from the street surface) along street edge
- Keep traffic and pedestrian sightlines clear
- Ensure boundaries are freestanding and not permanently affixed
- Ensure an unobstructed pedestrian path along the sidewalk that is a minimum of six feet wide; greater widths may be required
- Not enclose utility infrastructure or transportation infrastructure, without prior approval
- Not be located within 20 feet of an intersection or crosswalk

Combined Sidewalk Café and Street Patio

A temporary seating area on the sidewalk and parking space(s) in front of your business where food and/or beverages are served.

Seating area and parking space(s) MUST:

- Be adjacent to and within the span of the façade of the property
- Be open to the air, except for approved shade elements
- Be secured by balustrades, planters, or other related items, **if alcohol will be served**
- Provide a continuous physical barrier (a minimum of 36 inches tall from the street surface) along street edge
- Keep traffic and pedestrian sightlines clear
- Ensure boundaries are freestanding and not permanently affixed
- Ensure an unobstructed pedestrian path along the sidewalk that is a minimum of six feet wide; greater widths may be required
- Not enclose utility infrastructure or transportation infrastructure, without prior approval



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- Not be located within 20 feet of an intersection or crosswalk

Sidewalk Storefront

A temporary seating area on the sidewalk in front of your retail business.

Seating area MUST:

- Be adjacent to and within the span of the façade of the property
- Be open to the air, except for approved shade elements
- Be secured by balustrades, planters, or other related items, **if alcohol will be served**
- Ensure boundaries are freestanding and not permanently affixed
- Ensure an unobstructed pedestrian path along the sidewalk that is a minimum of six feet wide; greater widths may be required
- Not enclose utility infrastructure or transportation infrastructure, without prior approval

Combined Sidewalk Storefront and Street Patio

A temporary seating area on the sidewalk and parking space(s) in front of your retail business.

Seating area and parking space(s) MUST:

- Be adjacent to and within the span of the façade of the property
- Be open to the air, except for approved shade elements
- Be secured by balustrades, planters, or other related items, **if alcohol will be served**
- Provide a continuous physical barrier (a minimum of 36 inches tall from the street surface) along street edge
- Keep traffic and pedestrian sightlines clear
- Ensure boundaries are freestanding and not permanently affixed
- Ensure an unobstructed pedestrian path along the sidewalk that is a minimum of six feet wide; greater widths may be required
- Not enclose utility infrastructure or transportation infrastructure, without prior approval
- Not be located within 20 feet of an intersection or crosswalk