

Business Licenses  
**BLIP**  
Information Program



## Sidewalk Cafés

### Requirements

- Your café must be licensed if it is on a city sidewalk.
- You must display a copy of the seating diagram on site and you must follow the diagram.
- Customers are good at moving furniture, but you are responsible for maintaining the design and size of your café area
- You must follow approved hours of operation.
- To expand your sidewalk café, you must make an application to the city.
- You may be required to put your furnishings away at night.
- The licensee shall provide food service in all outdoor areas during all hours of operation. Food service may consist of less than the full menu, but shall at all times offer a substantial choice of main courses, other food items, and nonalcoholic beverages.

### Sewer Access Charges

The Metropolitan Council administers the sewer access “SAC” charges for Hennepin County. Not all outdoor seating areas were considered when applicable SAC charges were determined for sites. A business that expanded an outdoor seating area or added an outdoor seating area may be required to have its SAC charges reevaluated.

### Noise

Minneapolis Ordinance 389 was amended to allow sidewalk cafés to have outdoor amplified music without a permit if the sound is not 5 dB(A) above background noise or as a general rule cannot be heard from 50 feet away.

### Dogs in Outdoor Cafés

- Chapter 235 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances was amended in 2008 to allow dogs to accompany their owners into designated areas of outdoor cafés.
- The eating establishment must register with licensing, but there is no additional fee for allowing dogs.
- The dogs must be leashed and licensed.
- Employees are prohibited from touching, petting, or handling dogs.
- Establishments should provide bowls of water for the sole use by dogs.
- Do not allow dogs on furniture.
- Do not allow dogs to eat from plates.
- A conspicuous sign must be posted to designate the dog area.

## How Do You Register Dogs in Outdoor Cafés?

- Update your sidewalk café or premise drawing to show where dogs will be permitted in your outdoor area.
- Submit your amended plan to licensing, where they will update the license to show that your establishment has a dog area.
- There are currently approximately 15 establishments with registered dog areas.

Once you have registered, you will get a copy of this sign to post in your business.



### Etiquette Tips for Dogs and Their Owners at Outdoor Restaurants

- Don't let your dog visit other tables unless invited.
- Keep your dog out of the server's path.
- Make sure your dog is well behaved around other people, especially children, and around other pets.
- Do not allow your dog to relieve himself in or near outdoor cafés.

### What Happens if You Are in Violation?

1. Expect a letter, telephone call, or visit from a License Inspector describing the complaint or violation.
2. Take this notice seriously. Call your Inspector for information or solutions.
3. Failure to comply with violation orders may result in citations, fines, suspensions, and revocation of your license to operate.
4. A noise violation will result in an immediate citation.

### Questions? Give us a call: 612-673-3000 or 311

For more information in other languages: Yog xav paub tshaj nos ntxiv, hu 612-673-2800. Macluumaad dheeri ah, kala soo xiriir 612-673-3500. Para mas información llame al 612-673-2700.