City of Vancouver

Patio Permit Decision Flowchart

LIQUOR & CANNABIS Thrive ADVISORS

1 Public or Private Property?

PUBLIC

- Includes sidewalks, curb lanes, and on-street parking spaces.
- Public property patios may operate seasonally or year-round.

PRIVATE

- Patio located behind the property line on the business's own property.
- Development permit required.
- Year-round operation possible.

City of Vancouver

2 Summer Only or Year-Round?

SUMMER

Summer Patio Program.

- Season runs April 1–Oct 31.
- Includes Summer Sidewalk Patios and Summer Curbside Patios.
- Must apply or renew each year.
- Simplified renewal available if unchanged.

YEAR-ROUND

Permanent/Annual Patio Program.

- Permit term April 1–Mar 31.
- Full review through Planning & Development.
- Renewed annually.
- Decking may be approved.

3 Sidewalk or Curb Lane?

SIDEWALK

- Located directly against the building frontage on the public sidewalk.

CURB LANE

- Located in curb lane/on-street parking area.
- Max width 1.8 m.
- Railings, traffic safety signs, reflective materials required.
- New 2026 accessibility requirements.
- Existing patios have 3 years to comply.
- One-time permit fee refund/credit after upgrades.
- Lightweight overhead protection, wind screens, posts, frames, integrated lighting permitted.
- Engineer drawings no longer required for most summer structures.

4 Liquor Service Needed?

YES

- Valid BC liquor licence required.
- Separate LCRB approval required.
- Proof of $5,000,000 liability insurance required for public property patios.
- Up to 50% of indoor seating may transfer unless occupant load increase approved.
- Liquor service on private patios requires railing.
- Service/customers must move indoors by 11pm.
- Occupant load approval may be required before LCRB submission.

NO

Continue with applicable patio permit requirements.

5 New Application or Renewal?

NEW

- Full application required.
- Site plan drawing required.

RENEWAL

- Existing permit holders may qualify for simplified renewal.
- Renewal notices emailed March 1.
- 50% reduction in renewal fees for private patios over 25 sq m.
- No permit fees for private patios under 25 sq m.

6 Simplified or Full Application?

SIMPLIFIED

- Available where no changes are proposed from prior year.

FULL

- Required where changes are proposed to layout or operation.
- New site plan may be required.

FOLLOW THE APPLICABLE PATIO PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Ensure compliance with all municipal regulations and requirements.