

USE OF CITY SIDEWALKS

Commercial Activities

Commercial sales are not allowed on public sidewalks without a permit.

SCMC 5.42.065

Mobile Vending

No vending, which includes sales of flowers or food from a pushcart, is allowed downtown.

SCMC 5.22.110

Display of Merchandise

Displaying merchandise on streets or sidewalks is not permitted. Persons may display their own original artwork.

SCMC 5.42.020

Noncommercial Activities

Noncommercial activities, which include any public service or charitable activity that is political, civic, or religious in nature, does not require a permit.

A table or display device being used for noncommercial activities on public sidewalks must be no larger than 6 ft x 6 ft x 3 ft and at least 10 ft from the following:

- building
- street corner or intersection
- fence
- sidewalk café or kiosk
- bench, directory sign, drinking fountain, public trash compactor, sculpture or payphone
- any portion of the sidewalk between the sidewalk café and the curb

After one hour, the display device must be moved at least 100 ft to a new location.

SCMC 5.43.020

March 2009

STREET PERFORMANCE

Anyone can perform on any of the publicly owned sidewalks in the downtown area. However, if a street performer places an object on the sidewalk to collect contributions (a "display device"), the performer must abide by the same regulations for location and the length of time of the performance as noncommercial activities.

SCMC 5.43.020

Special Areas

Two areas near the Tom Scribner statue on the 1500 block of Pacific Avenue traditionally have been used by performers and others. These areas have been designated as areas exempt from the distance and time limits that apply when using a display device.

If a performance requires a space larger than 4 ft by 6 ft or requires more than 20 minutes to set up, permits may be obtained to reserve a space.

Permits are free and applications are available at Parks and Recreation, 323 Church St.

Sound Amplification

Sound amplification equipment is not allowed without securing a permit from the police department.

SCMC 9.40.010

How to measure distances on the sidewalk

Each sidewalk square is 2 ft.
5 squares = 10 ft.
7 squares = 14 ft.
25 squares = 50 ft.
50 squares = 100ft.

Distances can be measured in any direction

PANHANDLING/SOLICITATION

Asking (with your voice or with a sign) for a donation of money, food, cigarettes, or items of value is considered panhandling/solicitation and is regulated by time, place and manner.

Panhandling not allowed within 14 ft

- building
- street corner or intersection
- fence
- sidewalk café or kiosk
- bench, directory sign, drinking fountain, public trash compactor, sculpture or payphone

Panhandling not allowed within 50 ft

- bank or financial institution
- ATM or money changing machine

Panhandling is not allowed

- in bank parking lots
- while seated or leaning on a bench, planter, monument, or other public property
- on private property without permission
- from a vehicle or to a person in a vehicle
- in a public bus or at bus stop.

Manner of panhandling prohibited

- in a group of two or more persons
- by using profane or abusive language either during the solicitation or following a refusal
- while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- by coming within 3 ft. of the person
- by blocking the path of a person
- by following a person who walks away
- giving false or misleading information, such as stating donation is for a need that does not exist

Panhandling is not allowed after dark.
SCMC 9.10.010 – 9.10.060

CONDUCT ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Sitting on the Sidewalk

Sitting on the sidewalk is not permitted within 14ft of the following:

- building
- street corner or intersection
- fence
- sidewalk café or kiosk
- bench, directory sign, drinking fountain, public trash compactor, sculpture or payphone

or within 50 ft.

- bank or financial institution
- machine

SCMC 9.50.012

Lying on the Sidewalk

Lying on the sidewalk is not permitted.

SCMC 9.50.011

Distributing Literature

Standing and handing out literature is allowed as long as you do not obstruct or interfere with the flow of pedestrian traffic.

SCMC 9.50.010

Skateboard or Rollerskate

Skateboarding and rollerskating are not allowed.

SCMC 10.36.041

Activities with Airborne Objects

Throwing any solid objects such as hackysacks, frisbees, footballs, baseballs, or other similar devices is not allowed.

SCMC 9.50.020

Conduct on Public Property

Walking, standing, or lying upon a bench, drinking fountain, bike rack, trash receptacle, street-tree planter, utility cabinet, railing, planter, or any other public property not designed for such purposes is not permitted.

SCMC 9.50.020

OTHER LAWS

Dogs

For public safety reasons, dogs (even on leashes) are not allowed on public property in most of the downtown business district. All dogs must be licensed and tagged.

SCMC 8.14.200–8.14.201.

Alcohol on Public Property

Drinking or possessing an open alcoholic beverage in any public place or public way is not allowed.

SCMC 9.12.020–9.12.070

Noise Curfew

From 10 p.m. to 8 a.m., noise must be kept to a minimum level.

SCMC Sections 9.36.010–9.36.040

BICYCLE LAWS

Bicyclists must follow the same laws as vehicle drivers.

- Do not ride a bike on the sidewalk
- Ride in the same direction as vehicular traffic
- Stop at all stop signs
- Use the bike racks to park bike

SCMC 10.68 and 10.32.040

PUBLIC PARKING LOTS AND GARAGES

Public parking lots and garages downtown are for the purpose of parking and retrieving vehicles and bicycles or walking from one sidewalk to another or to buildings bordering the parking lot.

No person shall remain in the parking lot or garage premises for more than 15 minutes.

SCMC 9.64.010 – 9.64.050



DOWNTOWN PUBLIC PROPERTY ORDINANCE GUIDE

March 2009

The City of Santa Cruz ordinances are intended to facilitate everyone's enjoyment and use of the downtown area. This guide summarizes some of the relevant ordinance provisions in the Santa Cruz Municipal Code (SCMC) as of March 12, 2009.

The information provided is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

The SCMC is available at the public library, 224 Church Street and on the City's website: www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us.