

Sidewalk Café By-law Summary

A sidewalk café is like an outdoor eating area with tables and chairs on the public sidewalk, connected to a nearby indoor restaurant.

General Rules:

- Before setting up a sidewalk café, you need permission from the Town of Antigonish. They may set some rules to make sure it's done right. The Town will ask nearby property owners, traffic experts, engineers, and the Heritage Committee for their thoughts before deciding.
- If you don't agree with the Town's decision, you can appeal to the Town Council.
- If you don't follow the rules they set, the Town can tell you to remove the sidewalk café. If you don't do it within 24 hours, they might do it for you.
- To have a sidewalk café, you need a permit that you have to renew every year. There's a \$100 fee for the application, and if you take away parking spaces, it's an extra \$250 per meter.
- When you apply, you need to show a drawing of your sidewalk café. It should include where everything will be placed and how it relates to the sidewalk and the indoor restaurant. It also needs to show things like utility poles, signs, and drainage features nearby.
- The design of your sidewalk café should match the building it's next to. If there are specific design rules for the area, follow those too.
- You need insurance of at least \$1,000,000 to cover any accidents. You also have to pay for the cost of reviewing your application.
- Sidewalk cafés must be next to a food place and are considered an extra part of it. They can only be open during the same hours as the main restaurant, and they have to close by midnight.
- There should be a clear space of 2.1 meters wide on the sidewalk. If your design is safe for pedestrians, the Town might allow less, but never less than 1.5 meters. If your café covers the whole sidewalk, you might need to provide a temporary walkway.
- You can have a fence, but it can't be higher than 1 meter. It's better if it's see-through. If it's dark, you need lights. Make sure the lights don't bother neighbors or mess with traffic signals.
- If you want to add buildings or awnings, you need extra permits.
- Keep your café and the area around it clean. Trash bins should be along the building, and any garbage from the café should be taken away properly.
- Keep at least 1.1 meters of clear walkway to the building entrance. Anyone, including those with disabilities, should be able to get in easily.
- Plants and decorations are okay, but they should be temporary unless the Town says otherwise.
- Your café can't stick out more than the building it's next to, and any signs or ads need another permit following the town's rules.
- Anything you put up, like furniture or signs, should be removable. During the off-season or when you close, everything must be taken away. The area should be restored to how it was.
- Keep the noise down. If your café becomes a problem with loud music or rowdy customers, the Town can cancel your permit.

- The Town and utilities can get to your café area for maintenance or emergencies. You might not get much notice, especially in emergencies.
- Sidewalk cafés can only operate from May 1st to October 30th, unless the Town says otherwise.