



# PATIO PROGRAM GUIDE

## Introduction

Patios contribute to vibrant and livable communities and help make Edmonton a place where people want to live, work and thrive. Restaurants, bars and cafes are invited to plan their patio using the City's streets and sidewalks. You may be interested in a small patio on the sidewalk or a more prominent patio which repurposes space on the street. This guide outlines the steps from design to approval and installation to co-create your patio with the City and contribute to safe, vibrant and accessible spaces for everyone.

## What Was Introduced in 2024

### Addendum to the Patio Design Options

The City of Edmonton's [Design and Construction Standards](#) have changed and new streetscape areas, also called Public Realm Zones when rehabilitation improvements are scheduled, will change where a patio can be placed and the type of patio that will meet the City guidelines. Patios must be placed and designed to conform to the new Design and Construction Standards. If streetscape improvements are completed in your area, your patio design may have to be changed to fit within the dedicated furnishing zone.

If you have a current Licence of Occupation with the City of Edmonton's Patio Program a team member will reach out to you if a streetscape plan will affect your current patio design.

The City of Edmonton is once again waiving all permit fees, including for the new extended Licence of Occupation.

## Where Patios on Public Space are Permitted

When private property does not provide the required space for a patio, public property may be considered using space within the curb lane of the street, along the sidewalk or in an alleyway. This is an option for businesses located along mainstreets, within Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), and at properties where the front of the building is built up right to the property line also known as Zero Lot Line Development.

Eligibility for the Patio Program includes:

- Having a valid City of Edmonton Business Licence;
- Being an eating or drinking establishment; and
- Having a valid [zoning approval](#) for one of the following: Bars and Neighbourhood Pubs, Breweries, Wineries, Distilleries; Restaurants; or Specialty Food Services.

The Patio Program applies to patios on public space including sidewalks, streets and alleyways. Please contact [developmentpermits@edmonton.ca](mailto:developmentpermits@edmonton.ca) for information on planning a patio expansion on private property.

## How Patios Can Be Used

### What is Permitted:

- Serving and eating food and beverages
- Patio installations that can be moved within 24 hours. Types of structures and furnishings vary depending on the option.

### What is not Permitted:

- Cooking of food and drink preparation
- Permanent infrastructure
- Use of City power receptacles for any purposes
- Patios with capacity of more than 60 people
- Portable toilets
- Stages
- Pergolas or any overhead elements aside from umbrellas. Any patio with overhead elements requires Safety Codes review and may require a Building Permit.

## Four Quick-Start Patio Options

There are four quick-start patio design options offered through the Patio Program.

### Declaration Patio: Patio Option 1

TYPE OF PATIO	REQUIREMENTS
<p><b>Option 1: Small Sidewalk Patio</b></p> <p>Place tables and chairs on the sidewalk to expand seating while keeping a clear path for pedestrians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patio furnishings (tables and chairs) must be taken in and out each business day.</li> <li>• The patio area cannot be enclosed by railings or barriers.</li> <li>• No umbrellas, heaters or string lighting are permitted.</li> <li>• Must maintain a clear and accessible 2m wide path on the sidewalk for pedestrians of all abilities.</li> <li>• Can be operated as a seasonal patio or a year-round patio.</li> </ul>

### APPROVAL PROCESS: Declaration

Patio Option 1 requires a Declaration. This is **a permit via acknowledgement by the business owner that they will abide by all guidelines and program requirements set by the City.**

#### 1. Fill out the [Application Form](#) for Option 1.

- You will need to include a Patio Plan and sign the [Declaration Form](#).
- Once complete, your patio is immediately approved.
- Your permit will be valid for 1 year from the date of signing the Declaration Form.

#### 2. Set up your Patio!

- Please email [vibrantstreets@edmonton.ca](mailto:vibrantstreets@edmonton.ca) to inform the City of your patio installation date.
- Operate your seasonal or year-round patio.
- Reapply for your patio declaration after one year and note of any changes.

### Licence of Occupation Patios: Options 2, 3, and 4

TYPE OF PATIO	REQUIREMENTS
<p><b>Option 2: Parklet Patio</b></p> <p>Create a patio on the street within the curb lane by repurposing parking space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patios can be developed on a platform that is level with the sidewalk or placed directly on the street.</li> <li>• Parklet patios must include a guard around the perimeter in accordance with the technical guidelines.</li> <li>• Businesses are responsible for ensuring the parklet patio is accessible which may include supplying curb ramps into the patio area if it is directly on the street.</li> <li>• Patio can be furnished with tables, chairs, umbrellas, heaters, string lighting and planters.</li> <li>• All structures and patio furnishings must be fully removable within twenty-four (24) hours in case maintenance, events or other activities by the City and utility providers are required.</li> <li>• This type of patio can be operated as a seasonal patio or a year-round patio.</li> </ul>

## Licence of Occupation Patios: Options 2, 3, and 4

TYPE OF PATIO	REQUIREMENTS
<p><b>Option 3: Full Sidewalk Patio with Boardwalk Sidewalk</b></p> <p>Create a patio on the sidewalk while pedestrians are accommodated on a boardwalk structure placed in the curb lane.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses are responsible for supplying a mandatory boardwalk sidewalk structure to provide an accessible path for the public in the curb lane.</li> <li>• Boardwalk structures and the patio area must include a guard and patio railing around the perimeter in accordance with the technical guidelines.</li> <li>• Patios can be furnished with tables, chairs, umbrellas, heaters, string lighting and planters.</li> <li>• All boardwalk structures and patio furnishings must be fully removable within twenty-four (24) hours in case maintenance, events, or other activities by the City and utility providers are required.</li> <li>• This type of patio can be operated as a seasonal or a year-round patio.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Option 4: Partial Sidewalk Patio (no boardwalk sidewalk required)</b></p> <p>Create a patio on the sidewalk while pedestrians are accommodated on the sidewalk next to the patio.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patios must include a patio rail system around the perimeter in accordance with the technical guidelines.</li> <li>• This option is only available where the sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate both the patio and a 2m clear path for pedestrians.</li> <li>• Temporary traffic control is not required for this type of patio.</li> <li>• Patios can be furnished with tables, chairs, umbrellas, heaters, string lighting, and planters.</li> <li>• All railings and patio furnishings must be fully removable within twenty-four (24) hours in case maintenance, events, or other activities by the City are required.</li> <li>• This type of patio can be operated as seasonal or a year-round patio.</li> </ul>

### APPROVAL PROCESS: Licence of Occupation

Patio Options 2, 3, and 4 all require a Licence of Occupation. This is a formal permit that allows the business to use the road right-of-way like sidewalk or street for patios. Patios are not to be installed or used until approval is granted through the signing of the Licence of Occupation.

#### 1. Fill out the [Application Form](#) for Option 2-4. You will need to include:

- Patio Plan
- Confirm type of patio: seasonal vs. year-round
- Proof of insurance documents
- Noise Mitigation Plan, if applicable
- Proof of public engagement, if applicable

#### 2. Work with the City during the review and evaluation process of your Patio Plan

- This may include a site visit with the City.
- Make changes and adjustments to your Patio Plan, as necessary, to align with technical guidelines.

#### 3. Once the City review is complete you will receive your Licence of Occupation sign through DocuSign.

#### 4. Check if any of the following apply

- If your patio is an Option 2 or Option 3 you are required to apply for an [On-Street Construction and Maintenance \(OSCAM\) permit](#) prior to setting up your patio.
- Apply for any [Safety Codes Permits](#) required as a result of your patio installation.

#### 5. Install your patio!

- If your patio is an Option 1 or 4 please email [vibrantstreets@edmonton.ca](mailto:vibrantstreets@edmonton.ca) to inform the City of your installation date.
- If your patio is an Option 2 or Option 3, coordinate patio installation date and temporary traffic control requirements through the OSCAM permit.

#### 6. Receive your fully executed copy of the Licence of Occupation from the City and keep it for your records.

- A copy should be kept on the business premises at all times while the patio is in operation.



## When Patios Can Operate

Throughout the year there are two options for patio operation:

- **Seasonal Patios:** Only set-up and open during the spring, summer and fall
- **Year-Round Patios:** Set-up and open year round (365 days), including in the winter
  - Year-round patios **cannot be used for winter storage of patio furnishing.** If the patio will not be actively used by customers during the winter months then all patio elements (parklets, boardwalk sidewalks and all furnishings) need to be removed.

Seasonal vs. year-round operation impacts the business' operations and maintenance obligations and the type of traffic control devices that are installed. The differences between seasonal and year-round patios are outlined below.

On a day-to-day basis patios can be open during the same hours as the business it is associated with.

Operating Time Period	Operations and Maintenance Obligations	Traffic Control
<p><b>Seasonal Patio</b></p> <p>The patio is open and actively used during the spring, summer and fall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maintain all structures and patio furnishings in a safe, clean and sanitary condition including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fixing any damage resulting from vandalism or theft</li> <li>○ Keeping the patio area clear of any projections that may create a danger to the public</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Ensure the patio area, patio structures and sidewalks adjacent to the patio area are clear of any ice, pooling water, leaves, and debris in accordance with the Community Standards Bylaw.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Requires temporary traffic control (TTC) devices in accordance with the <b>seasonal</b> patio temporary traffic control standard.</li> <li>● TTC devices are provided by the City and are installed on a seasonal basis.</li> <li>● TTC devices can not be removed or disturbed without permission from the City.</li> <li>● The business must notify the City via 311 of any issues with the TTC as soon as the issue is identified.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Year-Round Patio</b></p> <p>The patio is open and actively used during all four seasons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All seasonal patio operations and maintenance obligations (as stated above)</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional winter obligations include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Snow and falling snow/ice from rooftops/awnings must be cleared from the patio area, patio structures and sidewalks adjacent to the patio area in accordance with the Community Standards Bylaw.</li> <li>● Snow must not be stacked, piled or stored within the patio area or on any patio structures or furnishings.</li> <li>● If snow is stacked on private property it must not constrain the 2m pedestrian clear path or affect sightlines at intersections or vehicle access points.</li> <li>● Slip-resistant treatments must be applied and maintained on any boardwalk or parklet patio structures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Requires temporary traffic control (TTC) devices in accordance with the <b>year-round</b> patio temporary traffic control standard.</li> <li>● TTC devices are provided by the City and are installed when the patio is initially set-up and are left up year round.</li> <li>● TTC can not be removed or disturbed without permission from the City.</li> <li>● The business must notify the City via 311 of any issues with the TTC as soon as the issue is identified.</li> </ul>

## Operational Reminders

Edmontonians want safe and connected sidewalks. An obstacle free 2m wide walkway is Edmonton's standard for accommodating all residents. This width allows for two-way travel and ensures that people with strollers, walking their bicycles, using wheelchairs or other mobility aids, or people with limited vision will be able to have a clear path and feel welcomed by your business.

Patio Options	Supporting Connected and Accessible Pathways
<b>Option 1:</b> Small Sidewalk Patio	These options best support accessibility, as they do not require diverting pedestrians around your patio. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a 2m wide clear path along the sidewalk, including keeping the sidewalk clear of any planters, signs or other obstructions associated with your business.</li> </ul>
<b>Option 2:</b> Parklet Patio	
<b>Option 4:</b> Partial Sidewalk Patio (no boardwalk sidewalk required)	
<b>Option 3:</b> Full Sidewalk Patio with Boardwalk Sidewalk	This option has a bigger impact on accessibility than the other options, because detours can create additional challenges to people pushing strollers, using mobility aids, or with limited vision. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a 2m wide clear path by diverting pedestrians around your patio with a boardwalk sidewalk structure installed in the curb lane.</li> <li>Use cane-detectable railings and patio furnishings that support visually impaired people utilizing aids.</li> </ul>

While operating your patio as a business, the following should also be kept in mind:

- The patio may only operate within the designated patio area identified in the Licence of Occupation.
- All patios are subject to compliance checks. If the patio is found operating outside the approved plan, the patio and or applicant may be subject to enforcement.
- The City may alter or limit the use of the licence area to accommodate conflicting construction activities or events. As much advance notice as possible will be provided.
- The City may terminate the permission to operate the patio without notice in the event of an emergency and/or operational safety concerns.

## Create Your Patio Plan

A Patio Plan is a drawing that identifies what portion of street and/or sidewalk space will be used for the patio. The application form also requires photos of the business frontage, including showing adjacent businesses.

### Your Patio Plan must:

- Identify the boundary of the proposed patio area, including dimensions.
  - If the proposed patio area will extend beyond your business frontage you must get written permission from the adjacent property owners and tenants confirming their support of the plan.
- Illustrate the proposed layout of the patio identifying the elements it will include such as:
  - parklet or boardwalk sidewalk platforms and any required guards and/or patio railings;
  - the quantity of tables and chairs; and,
  - any furnishings such as umbrellas, planters, string lights, or heaters.
- Clearly indicate where the 2m pedestrian clear path will be accommodated.
- Identify if the patio area impacts any loading zones and curbside parking (EPark or other restricted parking zones). Note: accessible parking areas and bus stops are not available for use.
- Identify any Public Boulevard Trees impacted by or directly adjacent to the patio area.
- Identify any utility infrastructure impacted by or directly adjacent to the patio area (fire hydrants, street light poles and/or utility cabinets).
- Identify any other street furniture impacted by or directly adjacent to the patio area (waste receptacles, bicycle parking areas, bollards, and/or any accessory street furniture).
- Identify any elements associated with ensuring the patio area remains accessible for mobility users.

## Patio Program Technical Requirements





These technical requirements are divided into three sections:

**Patio Location Requirements:** These specifications outline where a patio can be located relative to all of the public infrastructure that is on the street and sidewalk.

**Patio Design Requirements:** These specifications identify the design requirements associated with the patio layout and any platforms, rails or structures included in a patio.


**Patio Furnishing Requirements:** These specifications identify the requirements associated with decorative or furnishing elements added to a patio.

This document utilizes symbols to help identify elements that increase the complexity of the patio development. The symbols and their meanings are outlined as follows.


Symbol	Meaning
	A patio that impacts this requirement increases the complexity of the application. There may be an increase in application review timelines associated with this element as specific review and approval are required.
	A patio that impacts this requirement may not be feasible. It is recommended that the applicant email <a href="mailto:vibrantstreets@edmonton.ca">vibrantstreets@edmonton.ca</a> to confirm feasibility prior to submitting an application.
	Safety Codes is involved when this element is included in the patio design. Safety Codes review is mandatory and additional Construction Permits may be required.
	Engagement may be required if your patio impacts this specification.

## Patio Location Requirements






### Street Safety

- Patios are only allowed on roadways with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h or less.
- The edge of the patio (side adjacent to vehicle traffic) must be at least 0.65m (25½") from the edge of any adjacent travel lane, bike lane, or shared pathway.
- Patios must be at least:
  - 5.0m (16'-4¾") from the corner of an uncontrolled intersection.
  - 10.0m (32'-9¾") from the corner of a controlled intersection (stop/yield sign or signals) or an intersection with a marked pedestrian crosswalk.
  - Measured from the edge of the patio area to the face-of-curb of the intersecting roadway.
- Curb lanes where vehicles park
  - Are available for Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk installation, subject to the specifications outlined in the **Parking** section of this document.
- Curb lanes where vehicles drive (signed as No Parking, No Stopping or Tow Away Zones) 
  - In exceptional situations these areas may be available to accommodate a Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk.
    - Subject to approval through the application review process.
    - Requires a customized Traffic Accommodation Plan.
    - Costs associated with the additional Temporary Traffic Control required to support a patio in a curb lane where vehicles drive may be the responsibility of the patio permit holder.


## Street Signs

- Traffic Control Signs - for example, stop signs, yield signs, speed limit signs
  - **Cannot** be moved to accommodate a patio.
- Non-traffic Control Signs - for example, parking signs or general information signs 
  - May be moved to accommodate a patio.
    - Subject to approval through the application review process.
    - May require a customized Traffic Accommodation Plan.
    - Costs associated with removal/relocation may be the responsibility of the patio permit holder.


## Parking

- Accessible Parking Spaces - these are spaces reserved for vehicles with disabled parking placards. 
  - **Cannot** be used for a Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk.
  - Patios that coincide with accessible parking spaces, may only be developed as an Option 1: Small Sidewalk Patio or Option 4: Partial Sidewalk Patio.
- Unrestricted Curbside Parking - these are zones that are unsigned or have signs that identify parking with no restrictions.
  - Can be used to accommodate a Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk.
- Restricted Curbside Parking - these are zones with signs that include parking restrictions (e.g. limited to 2 hr parking) 
  - May be available to accommodate a Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk.
    - Subject to approval through the application review process.
- EPark Zones - these are parking stalls that require payment through the E-park program. 
  - May be available to accommodate a Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk.
    - Subject to approval through the application review process.
- Loading Zones - these are zones that are identified with loading zone signs. 
  - May be available to accommodate a Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk.
    - Subject to approval through the application review process.
    - May require engagement to confirm adjacent business or Business Improvement Area support for removal/relocation. 

## Bus Stops

- Patios **are not** permitted in bus stops. 
- Exceptions require approval of Edmonton Transit Service and **are not** guaranteed.
  - In the exceptional case where a bus stop is relocated for a patio, the bus stop relocation costs may be the responsibility of the patio permit holder.

## Urban Forest (Public Boulevard Trees)

- Any patio application where public boulevard trees are within 1m (39¼") of the proposed patio boundary or within the proposed patio area requires Forestry review. 
- Nothing is to be secured to, hung from, affixed to, or attached to a City owned tree without prior permission and approval from a City of Edmonton Urban Forester.
- The patio permit holder is responsible for any loss of or damage to City trees located within the boundary of the patio area deemed to be the result of the patio or its operation. This compensation will be in accordance with the procedures of City of Edmonton's [Public Tree Bylaw 18825](#) and the [Corporate Tree Management Policy C456C](#).





## Urban Forest (Public Boulevard Trees) Continued

- Trees **up to 14cm (5½") diameter at 1.4m (55½") above the surface of the tree grate:**
  - **Cannot** be located within the patio area;
  - The patio boundary must be a minimum 1m (39¼") measured from the edge of the tree grate; and,
  - Any exceptions are subject to approval by Forestry and the patio permit holder may be required to meet watering obligations set by the City.
- Trees **over 14cm (5½") diameter at 1.4m (55½") above the surface of the tree grate:**
  - May be located within the patio area subject to review by Forestry.
  - The following conditions apply:
    - Physical contact between City owned trees and patio patrons must be limited.
    - No tables, chairs or railings can be placed within 1m (39¼") of the edge of the tree grate.
    - Rainwater cannot be obstructed from reaching the tree's roots.
- Trees in a grassed boulevards (i.e. trees without tree grates):
  - May be located within the patio area subject to approval by Forestry.
  - The patio permit holder may be required to:
    - Install specialized tree protection.
    - Meet watering obligations set by the City.





## Fire Department Infrastructure

- Maintain 1.5m (59") of clear space around any:
  - Fire hydrant; and,
  - Fire Department 'siamese' building connection.

## Utilities

- Patios **cannot** be located overtop of underground utility vaults. 
- Patios **must not** obstruct utility connections/disconnects, lines, or meters.
- Maintain 1.5m (59") of clear space around any utility cabinet or pedestal. 

## Street Furniture

- Benches, Canada Post Boxes, Newspaper Boxes, Poster Columns, and Affixed Wastebins. 
  - **Cannot** be relocated to accommodate a patio.
- Bike Parking and Micro-mobility Parking Areas 
  - May be relocated to accommodate a patio.
    - Subject to approval through the application review process.
    - May require engagement to confirm adjacent business or Business Improvement Area support for removal/relocation. 
    - Costs associated with removal/relocation may be the responsibility of the patio permit holder.
- Bollards
  - May be removed/relocated to accommodate a patio. 
    - Subject to approval through the application review process.
    - Costs associated with removal/relocation may be the responsibility of the patio permit holder.

## Patio Design Requirements

### **Patio and Building Exits**

- Patios **cannot** block any building exit, including any emergency exits, or impede the exit path to safety. ◆
- Patios with a Patio Railing<sup>1</sup> must have at least one exit through the railing (not back into the building):
  - Exits must be at least 0.9m (35½") wide and obstacle free.
  - Exits must be clearly visible to patrons, or clearly marked with exit signs.

### **Platforms for Parklet Patios or Boardwalk Sidewalks**

Any platform, whether for Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk, must:

- Bear directly on the ground surface. Any elevated platform requires Safety Codes review. 🚩
- Be constructed and supported such that it **must not** damage any public property and must be readily removable at any time.
- Be secured with City-approved techniques:
  - Affixture to asphalt may only be with butyl pads or similar adhesive systems.
  - Affixture to concrete may only use a 9.52mm (3/8") stainless steel drop-in anchor with a minimum spacing of 95.25mm (3¾") and a minimum distance from any edge of the concrete of 114.30mm (4½"). NOTE: a 9.52mm (3/8") stainless steel flat head socket cap must be inserted in the anchors when the railing is removed. The anchor must be countersunk so that the socket cap is flush with the sidewalk.
  - Affixture **must not** endanger any underground utilities.
- The base of the platform **must not** interfere with the drainage flow in the gutter.
- The width of the platform must accommodate the 2m (6'-6¾") pedestrian clear path and Guard<sup>2</sup> but **cannot** encroach into the 0.65m buffer space, and 3.3m minimum vehicle travel lane.
- All platforms must be flush with the sidewalk and the connection between the platform and the sidewalk must be covered with a stout plate with slip-resistant surface.
- All platforms require a Guard as specified in the **Patio Perimeter Treatments** section of this document.

### **Patio Perimeter Treatments**

- All Parklet Patios or Boardwalk Sidewalks located in the curb lane must include a Guard.
- Guards must be constructed with these requirements:
  - Minimum height is 1.07m (42") and maximum height is 1.22m (48"); and
  - Spaces between horizontal or vertical elements less than 10.2cm (4") or greater than 20.3cm (8").
- All Option 3: Full Sidewalk Patios with Boardwalk Sidewalk and Option 4: Partial Sidewalk Patios must be suitably defined by a Patio Railing or Guard.
- Any gates in the Patio Railing **must not** swing into the pedestrian clear path, the adjacent road space or parking lanes.
- All Guards or Patio Railings must:
  - Not be affixed to any building facade or element;
  - Constructed and supported to not damage any public property;
  - Readily removable at any time; and
  - Be secured with City-approved techniques:
    - Affixture to asphalt may only be with butyl pads or similar adhesive systems.
    - Affixture to concrete may only use a 9.52mm (3/8") stainless steel drop-in anchor with a minimum spacing of 95.25mm (3¾") and a minimum distance from any edge of the concrete of 114.30mm (4½"). NOTE: a 9.52mm (3/8") stainless steel flat head socket cap must be inserted in

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<sup>1</sup> Patio Railing is a rail system that delineates space such as decorative rails, stanchions or similar types of barrier systems.

<sup>2</sup> Guard is a protective barrier at the open side(s) of Parklet Patio or Boardwalk Sidewalk platforms.

the anchors when the railing is removed. The anchor must be countersunk so that the socket cap is flush with the sidewalk.

- Affixture **must not** endanger any underground utilities.

### Overhead Structures (pergolas, roofs, and temporary tents) 🚩 ⬡

- Patios with pergolas or any structures with overhead elements **are not** permitted through the patio program.
- Any overhead elements attached to a building may require Development Permit and potentially require an Encroachment Agreement that is separate from the patio Licence of Occupation. ⬡
- Any patio with overhead elements requires Safety Codes review and may require a Building Permit. 🚩

## Patio Furnishing Requirements

### Fire Safety

- A fire extinguisher of 2A-10BC rating must be available within 23m (~75') of any part of the patio.

### Umbrellas

- Must be at least 2.13m (7') above the walking surface when open.
- When open, the edge of the umbrella **must not** extend beyond the boundary of the patio area.

### Planters

- Planters with plants **must not** be taller than 1.2m (~4') and must be movable by one person.
- Planters must be placed within the boundary of the patio area.
- No planters or plant material can block any street signs or pedestrian clear path or vehicle travel lane.
- Planters can be hung on a Patio Railing but **cannot** be a substitute for the Patio Railing or Guard.
- Planters **must not** be attached to any traffic control devices, streetlight poles, street furniture, boulevard trees, or above ground utility infrastructure.



### String Lights

- String lights must be high enough so that people can move freely beneath them:
  - Where anchored to a building or vertical post they must be attached at least 2.44m (8') above the walking surface; and
  - No part of the string lighting may hang less than 2.13m (7') above the walking surface.
- String lights must be powered by the business:
  - Power must come from the main electrical panel or a metered power source that the patio permit holder is responsible for. City-owned power receptacles **cannot** be used under any circumstances.
  - Any new service connection or power outlet installation/modification requires an [Electrical Permit](#). 🚩
  - No connections to underground utility lines are allowed.
  - Any electrical cords used **cannot** lie on the ground. They must be strung overhead and at least 2.13m (7') above the walking surface.
  - Tamper-resistant materials must be used.
- No flashing lights or colors that mimic traffic signals can be used.
- Lights **must not** be projected upwards or directed towards any adjacent properties.
- Minimum clearance from overhead power lines must be provided: 1m (39¼") from electrical service lines, and 3m (~10') from high voltage power lines.


## Vertical Posts to support string lights or hanging planters


- Vertical posts must be:
  - No larger than a 4" x 4" wooden post;
  - At least 2.44m (8') high to provide for string light vertical clearance requirements;
  - Securely fastened to the patio platform or Patio Railing<sup>1</sup>, **not** floating in a precast block; and
  - Spaced a minimum of 2.44m (8') apart; except for rectangular patios less than 4.9m (16') long, they may have a maximum of 2 vertical posts, one placed at each end of the patio area.

## Heaters

- Electric or propane patio heaters must be:
  - ULC- or CSA-certified freestanding units only;
  - Installed and operated per the manufacturer's directions;
  - Located at least 3m (~10') away from any City tree branches;
  - Stored off the road right-of-way when not in use.
- Any propane tanks used **cannot** exceed 20lb capacity.
- Any electrical cords used **cannot** lie on the ground; if strung overhead no part of the cord may hang below 2.11m (7') above the walking surface.
- Solid, gel, or liquid-fuel fire features **are not allowed**.
- Heaters that are not freestanding and/or have fuel service connected to a building **are not permitted through the patio program**. These types of heaters require approval through Development Services which may include obtaining a Development Permit, Safety Code review, Building/Gas/Electrical Permits, and an Encroachment Agreement that is separate from the patio Licence of Occupation.  

## Audio-Visual Equipment

Audio-visual equipment can only be included in Option 3: Full Sidewalk Patio with Boardwalk Sidewalk or Option 4: Partial Sidewalk Patio. No outdoor audio-visual equipment (for example speakers, sound systems, television, visual displays, projectors, etc.) may be used on a patio unless a submitted [Noise Mitigation Plan](#) is approved by the City. 

- Audio-visual equipment must be operated in compliance with Community Standards Bylaw 14600.
- Audio-visual equipment can only be placed within the boundary of the patio and **must not** extend beyond the boundary of the patio area.
- Placement of any televisions or video displays is subject to approval by the City and **must not** interfere with traffic operations of the adjacent roadway including the following:
  - Screens must be oriented away from vehicle traffic.
  - Screens **cannot** be arranged consecutively to create a video wall, or visual obstructions.
  - Any audio-visual equipment exceeding a height of 1.2m (~4') above grade, measured to the top of the device, **cannot** be placed where it impacts traffic sightlines.
- Audio-visual equipment must be secured. When securing the audio-visual equipment:
  - It **cannot** be attached to a building unless building permit approval for the attachment exists. 
  - It **cannot** be attached to any traffic control devices, streetlight poles, street furniture, boulevard trees, or above ground utility infrastructure.
  - Securing **must not** endanger any underground utilities.
- Audio-Visual Equipment must be powered by the business.
  - Power must come from the main electrical panel or a metered power source that the patio permit holder is responsible for. City-owned power receptacles **cannot** be used under any circumstances.
  - Any new service connection or power outlet installation/modification requires an [Electrical Permit](#). 
  - No connections to underground utility lines are allowed.

- Any electrical cords used **cannot** lie on the ground; if strung overhead no part of the cord may hang below 2.11m (7') above the walking surface.
- Tamper-resistant materials must be used.

## Noise Mitigation Plan

A noise mitigation plan is required when a patio is located on public property and proposes to use audio visual equipment. This amenity is only available to Option 3: Full Sidewalk Patio with Boardwalk Sidewalk. Please see the [Noise Mitigation Plan Template](#) for reference.

## Engagement Requirements

- **If the patio area will extend beyond your business frontage**, the applicant must obtain letters of support from the adjacent businesses, property owners/managers, commercial/residential tenants, Business Improvement Areas and/or community leagues that are impacted by the patio extension.
- **If the patio will impact an on-street loading zone or require street furniture to be moved**, the applicant is required to engage with impacted businesses, property owners/managers and/or commercial/residential tenants on their blockface and provide the City with proof that impacted businesses are in support of the patio installation and associated impacts to the loading zone or street furniture.

## Insurance Requirements

All patios held on public property require a minimum of \$2 million liability coverage with the City of Edmonton listed as an "Additional Insured".

## Traffic Accommodation Plan

All Option 2 and Option 3 patios require a Traffic Accommodation Plan. The City of Edmonton will provide all Traffic Accommodation Plans and associated Temporary Traffic Control devices.

## Encroachment Agreements

Any patio that includes elements that extend from private property onto public property potentially requires an encroachment agreement that is separate from the Licence of Occupation. These types of patios require approval through Development Services and may include obtaining Development and Construction Permits and an Encroachment Agreement. If these elements are identified through application review, the technical team will identify next steps associated with your patio application.

More information on [Permits, Development and Construction | City of Edmonton](#) and [Encroachments - Residential & Commercial | City of Edmonton](#) can be found on the City's website.