

# VENDING IN PUBLIC SPACES

YOU NEED MORE THAN JUST A BUSINESS LICENSE ...



## VENDING IN SEATTLE

Sidewalk vendors, food trucks and other types of vendors are an integral part of Seattle's vibrant public spaces. Because these vendors operate in the public right of way, SDOT's Street Use Division permits where, when and how these vendors are able to use public space. In order to ensure that public and private uses of the right of way are compatible, **the City of Seattle requires all vendors to obtain and adhere to the terms of both a business license and a Street Use vending permit before operating in the public right of way.** Depending on your type of business, other permits, such as those issued by King County Health or the Seattle Fire Department, may also be required.



## THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE GETTING YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE AND VENDING PERMIT

- The only vending allowed in Seattle public spaces is the sale of food and/or cut flowers. Sales of other types of merchandise (sunglasses, CDs, art, etc.) are not allowed.
- Application and review processes can take some time. Vending permit applications average **4-8 weeks of processing time** after initial submittal. Keep in mind you must have a business license *before* applying for a vending permit.



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- If you want to vend at a special event, such as a festival, fair, or concert, you must be approved by the event organizer prior to the event. For information on Special Events, visit the Office of Special Events website at [www.seattle.gov/special-events-office](http://www.seattle.gov/special-events-office).
- The cost of becoming a vendor is more than just the \$45 to \$90 annual fee for a business license. The total cost of a Street Use vending permit typically ranges from \$300 to \$2000 or more, depending on the type of permit required for your business.

## TYPES OF VENDING PERMITS

- Sidewalk and Plaza Street-Food (CAM 2501)
- Curb Space Food-Vehicle (CAM 2507)
- Temporary Curb Space (CAM 2510)
- Stadium and Event Center (CAM 2508)

Information on Street Use permit types can be found at: [www.seattle.gov/transportation/stuse\\_vend.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/stuse_vend.htm).

## ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE AND VENDING PERMIT

Remember that permits are site-specific. This means that for any particular permit issued, the permittee may vend *only* from the location specified on the permit. Also, in order to avoid fines and penalties, the vending decal issued with the site-specific vending permit must be prominently displayed at all times.

## CONTACTS

**Department of Finance  
and Administrative Services (business licenses)**  
(206) 684-8484  
[tax@Seattle.gov](mailto:tax@Seattle.gov)  
[seattle.gov/licenses](http://seattle.gov/licenses)

**SDOT Street Use Annual Permits**  
(206) 684-5267  
[AnnualPermits@Seattle.gov](mailto:AnnualPermits@Seattle.gov)  
[seattle.gov/transportation/stuse\\_permits.htm](http://seattle.gov/transportation/stuse_permits.htm)

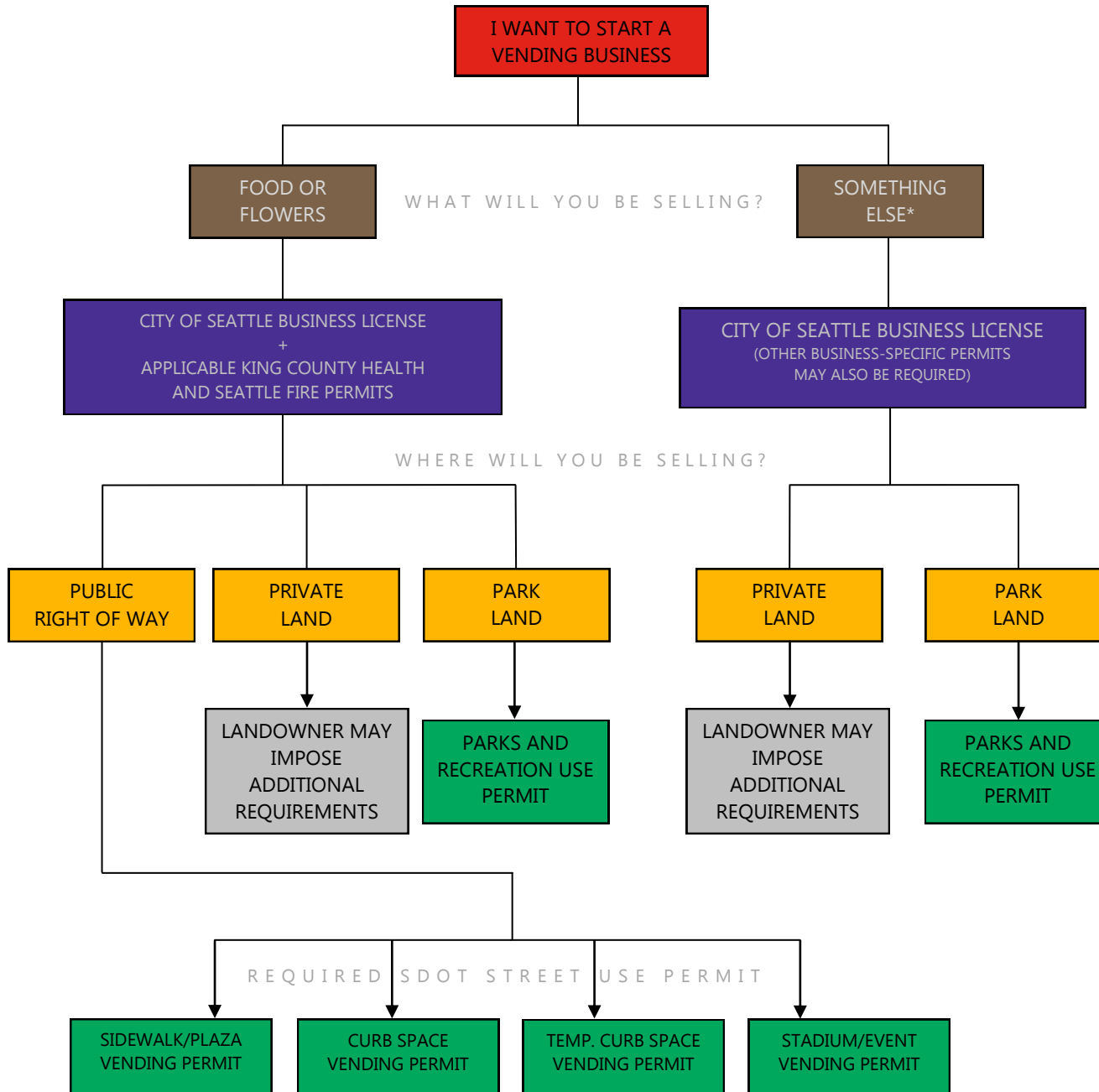
**Seattle Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office**  
(206) 386-1450  
[seattle.gov/fire/FMO/permits/permits.htm](http://seattle.gov/fire/FMO/permits/permits.htm)

**King County Public Health**  
(206) 263-9566  
[www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/foodsafety/FoodBusiness/mobile.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/foodsafety/FoodBusiness/mobile.aspx)

**Seattle Parks and Recreation**  
(206) 684-4075  
[PKS\\_Info@seattle.gov](mailto:PKS_Info@seattle.gov)  
[seattle.gov/parks/](http://seattle.gov/parks/)

# VENDING CATEGORIES FLOWCHART

REQUIREMENTS DIFFER ACCORDING TO WHAT AND WHERE YOU ARE VENDING



\* Note: Alcohol and marijuana products can only be sold in a state-licensed facility.

Disclaimer: This document is intended to be a supplement to, not a replacement for, the regulations pertaining to permitting processes. There may be additional steps required to permit your particular business.

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