

## Cannabis Consumption Licenses – FAQs

### What is a Cannabis Consumption Establishment/Special Event?

A Cannabis Consumption Establishment or Special Event license allows an existing business or special event to designate part of its premises as a “designated consumption area” or “DCA.” A DCA is a specific, designated location within an establishment or special event where consumption of cannabis is expressly permitted.

### Where can a Cannabis Consumption License be located?

Certain location restrictions apply. For example, DCAs may not be located within 1,000 feet of a school or childcare facility, nor may they be in purely residential zone districts. Please refer to Chapter 6 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code and the [Social Consumption Rules and Regulations](#) for a full description of location restrictions.

### Can a liquor licensed establishment apply for a Cannabis Consumption license?

The consumption of marijuana is prohibited within liquor licensed premises.

### Can a retail or medical marijuana store/center apply for a Cannabis Consumption license?

The consumption of marijuana is prohibited within the licensed premises of any marijuana business.

### What is/isn’t allowed in a Cannabis Consumption Establishment/Special Event?

Allowed:	Not allowed:
Responsible consumption of marijuana and marijuana products by patrons age 21 and older that is not visible to the public from a public place.	Consumption of alcohol.
Consumption of other non-alcoholic products such as coffee, water, food, etc.	Smoking indoors if not in compliance with the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act.
	Selling any marijuana or marijuana products.
	Cultivation, manufacturing, or storage of marijuana or marijuana products.
	Use of liquefied petroleum gas torches.

### Who can visit a Cannabis Consumption Establishment/Special Event?

Only adults 21 and older are allowed inside a DCA. Identification must be checked on the way in and patrons must consume responsibly.



### **Can I buy cannabis products from or at a Cannabis Consumption Establishment/Special Event?**

No. Marijuana and marijuana products can only be purchased at licensed retail marijuana stores or medical marijuana centers. Patrons may bring their own marijuana (edibles, concentrates, flower, etc.) and consume it in a DCA, but the sale of marijuana or marijuana products cannot take place within the licensed premises of a DCA or anywhere outside of a licensed marijuana storefront.

### **Will smoking be allowed in Cannabis Consumption Establishments/Special Events?**

Cannabis Consumption Licensees will be required to comply with the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act.

### **Will neighbors have an opportunity to weigh in on the licensure of nearby Cannabis Consumption Establishments/Special Events?**

Yes. Prospective applicants must provide Denver Excise and Licenses with proof of neighborhood support or non-opposition from a Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) or Business Improvement District. RNOs can be located using the [RNO finder tool](#). For establishments, a public hearing will be held for each applicant to allow individuals living or working nearby to voice their support or opposition to the license. For special events, a public hearing will be held upon receipt of petitions for such a hearing from qualified parties.

### **Are Cannabis Consumption Licensees allowed to advertise?**

Section 5.04 of the Social Consumption Rules and Regulations contain advertising guidance. It shall be unlawful to advertise a DCA anywhere in the city where the advertisement is visible to the public from any street, sidewalk, park or another public place. For example, billboards, sign spinners, or fliers being handed out in public places are unacceptable. Some exceptions to this rule include advertising for a DCA inside licensed marijuana businesses or in adult print publications. Please refer to the Colorado Revised Statutes, the Denver Revised Municipal Code, and the Rules and Regulations governing Marijuana Consumption Areas for a full understanding of advertising restrictions.

### **How will I know if a business contains a DCA?**

Any location operating a DCA must be clearly marked with a standardized placard posted at all exterior entrances to the location. The standardized placard will be a green and white sign and will read "Designated Marijuana Consumption Area."

### **As a Denver resident, what can I do if odor from a nearby Cannabis Consumption Establishment/Special Event is bothering me?**

All odor complaints, pertaining to marijuana or other sources, can be reported by calling 311 or online using [Pocketgov](#).

### **Who can I contact if I have further questions about Cannabis Consumption Licenses?**

Please email [marijuanainfo@denvergov.org](mailto:marijuanainfo@denvergov.org) if you have questions.

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