



Frequently Asked Questions About Cannabis Businesses Operations in the City of Hollister

What is the Cannabis Affairs Department?

An extension of the Development Services Division that focuses on licensing commercial cannabis businesses.

Are retail cannabis sales allowed in Hollister?

No. Only medical.

How Must Cannabis Businesses Operate?

They are subject to inspection by the City and other authorities at any time. They must comply with all security requirements and requirements for cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution and delivering medical marijuana, as well as state and local laws.

Does the City of Hollister permit the operation of Commercial Cannabis Businesses for recreational use (“adult-use”) of marijuana?

Yes, except for retail sales of cannabis, with the exception of a permitted medical dispensary to qualified patients. Permitted businesses may elect to participate in either or both the medicinal and adult-use markets. Any cannabis, cannabis product and or cannabis goods cultivated or manufactured for “Adult Use” in a City approved cannabis facility, shall be for export purposes only.

Where Can Medical and Non-Medical Cannabis Businesses Operate?

Hollister’s Zoning Ordinance allows cannabis businesses to locate in the following zoning districts: Light Industrial, Airport Support, Industrial Business Park, North Gateway and West Gateway Zoning Districts. A medical cannabis dispensary may not be located within the West Gateway Zoning District.

To protect sensitive uses, cannabis facilities are not allowed to locate within:

- 600 feet from a school (public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, but does not include any private school in which education is primarily conducted in private homes).
- 150 feet from a conforming residential use , a conforming religious institution or a licensed rehabilitation facility of substance abuse rehabilitation centers or emergency residential shelters

Is the City of Hollister still accepting applications?

Yes. Except for Dispensaries.

Is there a limit on the number of licenses being issued?

Currently, there is no limit, except for dispensaries. The City may only permit 2 medical dispensaries in operation at any time.

How long does it take to obtain a license?

It depends on various factors; please contact us directly at (831) 636-4360x12

Can I plant cannabis in my residence?

In compliance with Proposition 64, no more than 6 living cannabis plants may be planted, cultivated, harvested, dried, or processed by a person over the age of 21 inside a private residence, or inside an accessory building to a private residence that is fully enclosed and secure, and located upon the same parcel, cultivation under this part must be stored in a locked space on the grounds of the private residence not visible from the public right-of-way.

Where can I use cannabis?

You can consume cannabis on private property but you cannot consume, smoke, eat, or vape cannabis in public places. Property owners and landlords may ban the use and possession of cannabis on their properties.

Can I sell or transfer my Regulatory Permit?

No. Any attempt to assign or transfer such permits shall render the permit null and void.

Can I operate if I have a permit in other City?

You can hold multiple licenses within different jurisdictions but in order to operate in the City of Hollister you must first apply with us as well. Please note that each license type requires a separate application.

What do I do if I have a complaint about a Commercial Cannabis Business?

Please contact the Hollister Police Department (if criminal activity is suspected) the Code Enforcement Division and/or Development Services Department (for violations such as odors, noise, excessive parking, site maintenance, etc). Among the most-common complaints is odors coming from a Commercial Cannabis Business. Regulations and conditions have been imposed on all Commercial Cannabis Businesses to require that no odors can be detected by neighboring properties.

What if I have other questions?

If the webpage does not address your concerns, please contact the development services at

(831)636-4360x12.