



Philadelphia's Guide to Sharing Public Spaces

- **Philadelphia public spaces are for everyone.** Philadelphia sidewalks and public spaces should be available for all to use and to peacefully enjoy the City.
- **Without discrimination.** No one should be discriminated against in the use of public spaces, and poverty should not be criminalized.
- **Enforcement requires prioritizing.** The City works to deploy limited enforcement resources by prioritizing enforcement against activities causing the most harm.

Help is Available for Those in Need

As an alternative to giving to panhandlers: Text “Share” to 80077 to make a donation to support housing, jobs, and services

To help someone:

- who appears homeless, call the 24/7 Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984
- find a meal, free showers, laundry and access to other services in a safe, dignified setting visit: <https://bit.ly/2lloAk3>
- having a mental health crisis, call 215-685-6440
- find services to treat addiction call 888-545-2600

NOTE:

This guide does not include all provisions of law related to public behavior. For a complete listing of relevant local law see Philadelphia Code CHAPTER 10-600. PUBLIC PLACES – PROHIBITED CONDUCT; state and federal law may also be applicable.



Sidewalks & Public Spaces

Philadelphia Police Department provides enforcement, in some instances with support from Homeless Outreach. Enforcement requires prioritizing. The City works to deploy limited enforcement resources by prioritizing enforcement against activities causing the most harm.

Prohibited

Sitting, lying, or placing one's belongings or other objects upon the public sidewalk, in such manner as to unreasonably and significantly impede or obstruct the free passage of pedestrians.*

Penalty: Verbal warning, written warning, \$20 fine

Soliciting money for any purpose on the public sidewalk in an aggressive manner likely to cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm to oneself or another, or damage to or loss of property. **

Penalty: Verbal warning, written warning, \$20 fine

Urinating or defecating in any public space

Penalty: Up to \$2,000 fine

Consuming alcoholic beverages or carrying or possessing an open container - Penalty: \$50-300 fine

Possessing or purchasing controlled substances

Criminal offense

Possessing or smoking small amounts of marijuana

Penalty: Possession - \$25 Smoking - \$100

Selling controlled substances - Criminal offense

Littering - Penalty: \$300 fine

Removing, defacing, or interfering in public or private property

Penalty: \$50 - \$300 fine or community service, \$300 for graffiti

Smoking in enclosed public spaces or in any public transportation vehicles or stations - Penalty: \$300 fine

Vending or selling without a license

Penalty: Up to \$2,000 fine

Disorderly conduct including fighting, violent or tumultuous behavior, making unreasonable noise, using obscene language or gestures or creating a hazardous or physically offensive condition, if it causes public inconvenience

Penalty: \$100 fine

Discouraged

Public outdoor serving of food (Requires a permit and meeting standards related to hygiene of servers, waste disposal, and storage/handling of food) - Health Department enforces

* This provision applies City-wide. Sitting and lying on the public sidewalk are more generally prohibited in Center City; University City; the 1st, 4th, 6th and 7th Council Districts; and on several major commercial thoroughfares. See Philadelphia Code Section 10-611 for details. **This provision applies only in Center City; University City; the 1st, 4th, 6th and 7th Council Districts; and on several major commercial thoroughfares. See Philadelphia Code Section 10-611 for details.



Parks

Prohibited

Camping or using a tent as shelter

Enforcement Agency: Park Ranger or Police

Park use after 10 pm

Enforcement Agency: Park Ranger or Police

Having fires anywhere outside of designated stone fireplaces, barbeque stands and portable charcoal stoves

Enforcement Agency: Park Ranger or Police

Amplified sound (except with an event permit)

Enforcement Agency: Park Ranger or Police

Permitted

Serving food for 75 or more people (requires a picnic permit)

See also "Public Outdoor Serving of Food" (above)

Enforcement Agency: Park Ranger or Health Department

Serving food for fewer than 75 people as long as it does not result in littering; See "Public Outdoor Serving of Food" (above)

Enforcement Agency: Park Ranger or Health Department



Public Transit

NOTE: These rules are reproduced from SEPTA's Passenger Etiquette General Guidelines available at www.septa.org

Prohibited

Obstructing the flow of pedestrian traffic

Penalty: Up to \$300 fine

Smoking in vehicles, in concourses, or at stations

Penalty: Up to \$300 fine

Speaking to others using loud or abusive language

Penalty: Up to \$300 fine

Soliciting and loitering in transportation centers

Penalty: Up to \$300 fine

Littering - Penalty: Up to \$300 fine

Discouraged

Lying down or placing feet or personal belongings on any bench or seat - Warning: Removal from system

Taking up more than one seat

Warning: Removal from system

Bathing in public restrooms

Warning: Removal from system