



Applying for a Sidewalk Café Permit

A **Certificate of Use (COU)** is an official permit that allows restaurants to operate sidewalk cafés on public sidewalk space. It confirms that the setup meets District zoning, safety, and accessibility standards. **Below is an overview of how to apply.**

1. Complete the COU Application

Access the application [HERE](#) and fill it out completely.

2. Confirm Public Space Rental Account and Fees

Ensure your public space rental account is active and fees are current by checking [eRecords](#), the [District Department of Transportation \(DDOT\)](#), and the [Office of Tax and Revenue \(OTR\)](#).

3. Submit an Approved DDOT Sidewalk Café Permit

A sidewalk café permit from DDOT is required.

To ensure a proper sidewalk café permitting, please refer to DDOT.

4. Include Prior COU (For Renewals Only)

If this is a renewal application, upload the previously issued COU.

5. Submit a Current Certificate of Occupancy

- Must include use and capacity load.
- **IMPORTANT:** The business name **MUST** match the DDOT permit. If not, update records with DDOT and DOB.

6. Provide Valid Certificate of Liability Insurance

This must list the District of Columbia as the certificate holder and include the following address: **The District of Columbia, 1100 4th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024**

7. How to Submit

- Email application and all supporting documents to coapp@dc.gov with the subject line: **"CU – [Property Address for the CU]."**
- Please allow one business day for review and approval.



Need Help?

If you need assistance, please contact us at COAPP@dc.gov or **202.671.3500**. We're here to help ensure your submission is smooth and successful!