



TOWN OF NANTUCKET

16 BROAD STREET - NANTUCKET, MA 02554

Quick Reference
Guide
for Businesses

GREETINGS!

As you are aware, Nantucket has many bylaws and regulations that govern the way businesses add to the unique character of the island. All Town codes and regulations can be found on the Town's website at www.nantucket-ma.gov/197/licensing or by a call to one of the numbers provided. Whether you are a long-time, year-round business owner or a new seasonal manager, please familiarize yourself with the policies that make Nantucket such a wonderful place to live and visit.

Below are some common reminders to help make EVERY season the best ever!

ALCOHOL

Unless your establishment has a seasonal or year-round liquor license, the pouring of alcohol for public consumption is prohibited by state law. Shops often wish to have wine and cheese socials or other events involving alcohol for customers, however this practice is illegal. State law (MGL c. 138, § 17A) allows the Town to grant One-Day Pouring Licenses for establishments. For information regarding One-Day Pouring Licenses, please contact the Licensing Agent at 508-325-4137 or licensing@police.nantucket-ma.gov.

ENTERTAINMENT

All entertainment in areas where the public has access or is invited - from DJ's to amplified live bands - requires licenses. The Town Code Chapter 105 Article IV: Public Entertainment allows for One-Day Temporary Entertainment Licenses to be issued by the Town. For more information, please contact the Licensing Agent at 508-325-4137 or licensing@police.nantucket-ma.gov.

DISPLAY OF MERCHANDISE

Per Town Code Chapter 97: Article 1: Merchandise and Wares, businesses are not allowed to display, store or maintain any merchandise (except flowers, potted plants and window boxes of flowers) on any Town street or sidewalk or on the exterior (including any door or shutter which, when opened externally, displays merchandise or signs) on any commercial structure. For more information contact Town Administration at 508-228-7255.

“SANDWICH BOARDS” / CHALKBOARDS / OTHER SIGNS

Per Town Code Chapter 97: Article II: Obstructions on Sidewalks, signs advertising a business or special event are not permitted to be displayed on any Town street or sidewalk. Additionally, per Chapter 97: Merchandise and Wares, Article 1 signs are not permitted on the exterior (including any door or shutter which, when opened externally, displays merchandise or signs) on any commercial structure. For more information please contact the HDC Administrator at 508-325-7587.

Also, as a friendly reminder, any changes to your establishment's official business sign must first obtain approval from the Historic District Commission's Sign Advisory Committee. For more information please contact the HDC Administrator at 508-325-7587.

HELIUM BALLOONS

Per the Town's 2015 Annual Town Meeting Article 80: Bylaw Amendment Ban on Sale and Use of Balloons, helium balloons are prohibited anywhere on the island, including in or around a business. Balloons without helium are permitted, however they are not permitted to be attached to the outside of your business structure.

ZONING

Nantucket has several business zones, with different uses allowed in each. Many businesses have special permits in place that allow them to operate. Check with the Planning and Land Use Services Department (PLUS) prior to making any changes to your business, such as adding seating, making changes to the use of the property, altering exterior features like patios or parking lots, or adding additional services. PLUS can be reached at 508-325-7587.

SIDEWALK/STREET BLOCKING

Per Chapter 97: Article II: Obstructions on Sidewalks, signs advertising a business or special event are not permitted to be displayed on any Town street or sidewalk. If you need to block all or part of the sidewalk or street for a particular temporary purpose (ie, need ladders to paint building, clean windows, make necessary repairs) you must receive permission to do so, in advance. Such blockages are generally discouraged between June 15 and Labor Day; and, holiday weekends unless it is unavoidable. For a one-time Street or Sidewalk Blocking Permit, please contact Town Administration at 508-228-7255.

LIGHTING

Commercial property or properties containing mixed uses with a commercial component may not have lighting which exceeds the average minimum levels listed in the IESNA Recommended Publications. Blinking, flashing, moving, revolving, scintillating, flickering, changing intensity and changing color lights shall be prohibited except for temporary holiday displays, lighting for public safety or traffic control. Please see Town Code Chapter 102: Outdoor Lighting for additional information regarding the Town's lighting bylaws, or contact the Lighting Enforcement Officer at 508-325-7587.

FOOD PERMIT

The Public Health Office is responsible for the issuance of required food service permits. If your establishment does not have a common victualler license but wishes to serve food for a one-time event, please contact the Public Health Office at 508-228-7200 x-7014. And remember, lemonade stands and bake sale tables are not allowed on Town property without Town permission and they must have Public Health approval even if on private property such as a store or gallery!

STAGES & OTHER STRUCTURES

If you are doing ANY construction, including a temporary stage, additional seating, tent or other structure, you will need a Building Permit. Please contact the Building Office at 508-325-7587.

CIGARETTES/LITTER/SWEEPING

Cigarette disposal containers, urns and other devices placed on public property are prohibited. All businesses are reminded that they should routinely sweep and tidy the sidewalks in front of their establishments, particularly of cigarette butts.

STREET FURNITURE

Businesses are not permitted to place their own benches, bike racks, reservation stands or other street furniture on the sidewalks or other public property without permission from the Town. Although this is a very generous gesture for the Town and our visitors, such actions are regulated and require permission. For more information, please contact Town Administration at 508-228-7255.

OCCUPANCY

Know your occupancy. Overcrowding your establishment is illegal and dangerous!

Helpful Contact numbers

Entertainment Licenses:

Licensing Agent 508-325-4137

One-Day Pouring Licenses:

Licensing Agent 508-325-4137

Event Permit:

Event Coordinator: 508-325-4166

Food Permit (non-restaurant, in-store)

Public Health 508-228-7200 x-7014

One-Time Noise Bylaw Waiver:

Town Administration 508-228-7255

Temporary Structure/Tent Permit:

Building Inspector 508-325-7587

Street/Sidewalk Blocking:

Town Administration 508-228-7255

License and Permit Enforcement:

Enforcement Officer 508-325-4137

HDC/Sign Advisory Committee:

HDC Administrator 508-325-7587

Lighting Enforcement:

Lighting Officer 508-325-7587

All Other Queries or for Guidance:

Town Administration 508-228-7255

Best Wishes for a Terrific Season!

