



Outdoor Commercial Use Permitting Options

Now that King County has entered a phase of the Governor’s Safe Start plan that allows for certain business operations, we know that many business owners in the unincorporated areas of the county are eager to re-open or expand their outdoor operations. We have created this fact sheet to help get you started.

Safe Start


You must comply with all state and county [Safe Start requirements](#).

Adding to or Expanding Your Business Outdoors on Private Property

If you are interested in establishing or expanding an outdoor space for previously approved business activities on your property, you will need a Fire; Special Event Permit from the Department of Local Services, Permitting Division (Permitting). Your proposal will be reviewed to ensure fire safety, adequate parking, accessibility and other provisions are maintained. There is no fee for this permit.

Apply On-Line at [MyBuildingPermit.com](https://www.kingcounty.gov/MyBuildingPermit)

Select: King County | Fire | Any Project | Special | Special Event



See the [Fire Permit, Special Event Information](#) handout for private property permit conditions. For more information contact Permitting at 206-296-6600 or email DPERWebInquiries@kingcounty.gov .

Adding to or Expanding Your Business Outdoors on the Street or Sidewalk

If you’re interested in using space on the sidewalk or street in front of your business to add a temporary café or additional retail space you will need a Right-of-Way Special Use permit from the Department of Executive Services, Real Estate Services (RES). There is no fee for this permit.

Visit the [Road Right-of-Way Special Use Permit](#) web page for the application form and instructions.

Contact RES at 206-477-9350 or email RES.Permits@kingcounty.gov .

Permit Expiration

These special allowances will expire when King County enters phase four of the Safe Start plan or when otherwise restaurants, personal services and retail service return to normal operations.