









CITY OF SANTA CRUZ EVENT PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

Planning an event? Please review the below permitting requirements to determine if permits are needed prior to your event. The table is divided into two sections for entertainment with and without alcohol service. The City Noise Regulations apply to all events.

Event Type	Permits/Approvals Required
Private Party at a private residence	No permits required. City noise restrictions apply.
Private or Public Event at an private indoor location (non-city property), such as a Hall, Church, Business, etc.	No permits required if event does not include live entertainment.

Event Type (Without Alcohol Service)	Permits/Approvals Required
Private or Public Event at a permitted eating and drinking establishment, a specialty retail store, or any other commercial use that is permitted by the Zoning Administrator to have Incidental Live Entertainment . <i>*Incidental live entertainment is considered incidental to the primary use where the indoor stage/performance area does not exceed eighty square feet and customer dancing does not occur (24.12.195)</i>	An Incidental Entertainment Permit is required.
Private or Public Event at an indoor location (non-city property) that includes ongoing Non-Incidental Live Entertainment on a stage greater than 80 square feet and/or customer dancing.	A Use Permit may be required to permit a Music Hall use. The level of permit review required varies based on the zone district. If approved, an Entertainment Permit is required.
Private or Public Event at an indoor location (non-city property) that includes Non-Incidental Live Entertainment on a stage greater than 80 square feet and/or customer dancing, five or fewer days per calendar year.	A One Day Entertainment Permit is required. These permits can be issued for up to five one-day events per calendar year.
Private or Public Event on a non-city property that includes Outdoor Live Entertainment.	Outdoor Live Entertainment is not permitted with any use unless it is specifically permitted as part of a Use Permit or events are restricted in number, below.

 Events not exceeding three consecutive days or five days per year	A One-Day Entertainment Permit is required. These permits can be issued for up to five one-day events per calendar year.
Private or Public Event on City Property & Public Gatherings/Expression	A Special Event Permit is required.

Event Type With Alcohol Service	Permits/Approvals Required
Private or Public Event at a private indoor location (non-city property) that includes Incidental Live Entertainment . <i>*Incidental live entertainment is live entertainment with instrumental and vocal music with small personal amplifiers provided for the listening pleasure of patrons, and which does not include karaoke or a disc jockey format or dancing and has an indoor stage/performance area not exceeding eighty square feet. (24.12.1100(a)(4))</i>	
 Business is permitted as a Low-Risk Alcohol Outlet and Incidental Live Entertainment is permitted in the Use Permit.	An Incidental Entertainment Permit is required.
 Business is permitted as a Low- or High-Risk Alcohol Outlet and Incidental Live Entertainment is not permitted in the Use Permit.	A modification of the Use Permit is required to allow for incidental entertainment. If approved, an Incidental Entertainment Permit is required prior to incidental live entertainment use.
 Business is permitted as a High-Risk Alcohol Outlet and Incidental Live Entertainment is permitted in the Use Permit.	An Incidental Entertainment Permit is required.
Request for Private or Public Event at an indoor location (non-city property) that includes Non-Incidental Live Entertainment . <i>*Live entertainment involves music, comedy, readings, dancing, acting or other entertainment performed by one or more persons, whether or not such person or persons are compensated for such performances. This use includes dancing by patrons to live or recorded music.</i>	
 Business is permitted as a Low-Risk Alcohol Outlet and Non-Incidental Entertainment is not permitted in the Use Permit.	Non-Incidental Live Entertainment is not permitted in conjunction with a Low-Risk Alcohol Outlet. A Special Use Permit is required to allow for the establishment of a High-Risk Alcohol Outlet (note: review requirements for approval). If approved, an Entertainment Permit is required prior to live entertainment use.
 Business is permitted as a High-Risk Alcohol Outlet and Non-Incidental Entertainment is permitted in the Use Permit.	An Entertainment Permit is required. Alternatively, a One-Day Entertainment Permit may be obtained for five or fewer events per year.

<p>Private or Public Event on a non-city property that includes Outdoor Live Entertainment in conjunction with a Low-Risk Alcohol Outlet.</p>	<p>Outdoor Live Entertainment is not permitted in conjunction with a Low-Risk Alcohol Outlet. A Special Use Permit is required to allow for the establishment of a High-Risk Alcohol Outlet (note: review requirements for approval). If approved, an Entertainment Permit is required prior to live entertainment use. Alternatively, a One-Day Entertainment Permit may be obtained for five or fewer events per year. The associated ABC license must also allow for outdoor drinking (Form #215).</p>
<p>Private or Public Event on a non-city property that includes Outdoor Live Entertainment where the business is permitted as a High-Risk Alcohol Outlet and Outdoor Live Entertainment is permitted in the Use Permit.</p>	<p>An Entertainment Permit is required. Alternatively, a One-Day Entertainment Permit may be obtained for five or fewer events per year. The associated ABC license must also allow for outdoor drinking (Form #215).</p>

The following permits are issued by the City of Santa Cruz Police Department:

- 1) [Incidental Entertainment Permit](#)
- 2) [Entertainment Permit](#)
- 3) One-Day Entertainment Permit (contact Kelsey Crow: kcrowe@santacruzca.gov)

The following permits are issued by the City of Santa Cruz Planning and Community Development Department. Contact the Planningcounter@santacruzca.gov for more information.

- 1) Use Permits
- 2) Modifications of Use Permits