

Cannabis Information

In Santa Cruz County, the health, safety, and welfare of visitors, residents, and local business owners is critical to maintaining the quality of life we all enjoy.

In 2018, California legalized the use or sale of cannabis to anyone 21 and older from licensed retail shops, expanding the consumption of cannabis from medical to recreational use. The use of cannabis is defined as smoking, vaping and eating cannabis-infused products.

To ensure the visitor experience is a positive one, Visit Santa Cruz County has compiled a summary of Frequently Asked Questions as they relate to adult-use recreational cannabis in California.

How much cannabis can I carry?

You can possess 28.5 grams of cannabis plant material (about an ounce) and 8 grams of concentrated cannabis. Opening a package containing cannabis or any cannabis products in public is illegal.

Where can I smoke or have my edibles?

You can consume cannabis on private property, but property owners and landlords may ban the use and possession of cannabis on their properties. You cannot use cannabis in public, or in other locations where smoking is illegal, including on the beach or in bars, restaurants, buildings open to the public, places of employment, and areas within 15 feet of doors and ventilation openings.

Can I ingest cannabis in my hotel room?

No. Consuming edible cannabis products or smoking of any kind is illegal in hotels, bed and breakfast inns, and vacation rental properties.

I'm on a road trip; can I travel with my cannabis?

Taking cannabis across state lines is illegal, even if you are traveling to another state where cannabis is legal. Driving under the influence of cannabis is also against the law.

Where can I purchase cannabis?

Only state-licensed establishments may sell retail cannabis products.

More information:

California Department of Public Health https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/DO/letstalkcannabis/Pages/LetsTalkCannabis.aspx

State of California Cannabis Information https://cannabis.ca.gov/about_us/

Note: Cannabis remains classified as a Schedule I drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act. Its purchase, possession, distribution, or use within California may be unlawful under federal law. Visit Santa Cruz County and their affiliate co-sponsors, their employees, affiliates, contractors, and legal advisors are not responsible for and shall not be held liable for this information, which was not created with the purpose of providing legal advice, is not comprehensive of all cannabis laws, and may become outdated. Sources: California Department of Public Health, State of California Cannabis Information.