Short-Term Rental Permits FAQ’s

What is a short-term rental permit?
This permit allows the applicant to rent a residential unit or part of a residential unit on a short-term basis. A short-term basis is 30 days or less to the same person. A renter who signs a contract or lease for more than 30 consecutive days is not considered short-term and this permit would not apply. (City Code 5.114)

Who needs a short-term rental permit?
Anyone who rents out a room(s) in their house or their whole house on a short-term basis and does not have a Conditional Use Permit from Planning.

What if I have a secondary structure on my property, am I allowed to rent that structure?
Yes, the secondary structure must follow the City code regarding the definition of a dwelling unit (City Code 17.108.050). If the structure has been added to the property or remodeled it must have been done through the appropriate City Planning and Development Code requirements for a secondary dwelling unit.

Who do I contact to verify my secondary structure is properly permitted?
City of Sacramento Community Development Department is located at 300 Richards Blvd, 3rd Floor Sacramento, CA 95811. You may also reach them at (916) 264-5011 or via email at planning@cityofsacramento.org

Can I use both my main dwelling unit and secondary dwelling unit as short-term rentals?
Yes, however, you must apply for short-term rental permits for each structure.

What is the cost of a short-term rental permit?
A new permit is $230, renewal permit is $160, renewals submitted after expiration incur a $50 late fee.

Do I need a Conditional Use Permit from Planning?
You need a Conditional Use Permit if you are renting out a house on a short-term basis that is: 1) not your primary residence and; 2) you do so for more than 90 days total per calendar year. Contact Planning at planning@cityofsacramento.org for more information.

If my short-term rental is my primary residence, do I need a Conditional Use Permit from Planning?
No. You can rent out all or part of your primary residence as much as you want within the guidelines of the short-term rental permit Sacramento City Code 5.114: http://www.qcode.us/codes/sacramento/view.php?topic=5-5_114&frames=on.

Revenue Division Business Permits | 915 I Street, First Floor, Room 1201 | Sacramento, CA 95814
businesspermits@cityofsacramento.org | 916-808-8500
What if my residence is subject to Covenants, Conditions, & Restrictions ("CC&Rs") or Homeowner Association rules ("HOAs")?
You must provide a copy of the CC&Rs or HOAs with your short-term rental application and cannot operate a short-term rental in violation of any CC&Rs or similar regulations.

What is required for a short-term rental permit?
Here are the requirements per City Code 5.114:

- Business Operation Tax Account (open/active/current), categorized as a hotel (no home occupation permit required)
- Collect and remit to the City Transient Occupancy Tax
- Rent to no more than six people at any one time, per parcel, unless otherwise indicated
- Adhere to the Rental Housing Program Standards
- Make sure your renters are aware of and follow all applicable City regulations

Why is a business operation tax as a hotel required?
A hotel is defined as a structure or any portion of a structure which is intended for occupancy on a transient basis. In this case a transient basis refers to occupancy of 30 consecutive days or less (City Code 3.28.020 and 3.08.200).

What is Transient Occupancy Tax?
Transient Occupancy Tax is a tax imposed on any person who stays in a hotel for a period of 30 consecutive days or less. No tax is imposed on day 31. (City Code 3.28)

What is the City's Transient Occupancy Tax rate?
The City's transient occupancy tax rate is 12%.

How long is the short-term rental permit good for?
The short-term rental permit is an annual permit and must be renewed each year.

Can I apply online for the short-term rental permit?
Yes, first create an account on the Sacramento Citizen Portal, if you already have an account, you may use the same login to apply for a Short-Term Rental Permit. Then apply online using the Sacramento Citizen Portal: https://aca-prod.accela.com/sacramento/Default.aspx.

How do I report an unpermitted Short-Term Rental or file a complaint about a Short-Term Rental?
If you believe a property is operating as a Short-Term Rental without a City issued permit, or you have a complaint about a short-term rental, you may call 3-1-1 or (916) 808-5011 or make a complaint online.

Please see the next pages for step by step instructions and screen shots that will walk you through the online application system.

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HOW TO APPLY ONLINE FOR A SPECIAL BUSINESS PERMIT


STEP 2: CREATE AN ACCOUNT IN THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO’S CITIZEN PORTAL

CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT

You will receive a confirmation email once your account has been created
STEP 3: CREATE AN ACCOUNT BY ACCEPTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Account Registration
You will be asked to provide the following information to open a basic account:
- Choose a user name, password, security question and answer
- Enter Contact Information, including a valid email address

In order to utilize the online permit program, in addition to the above, an active California Contractor’s License is required. For details, download the On-Line Permitting Registration Guide.

Please review and accept the terms below to proceed.

General Disclaimer
Information presented on this website is collected, maintained, and provided for the convenience of the user. While every effort is made to keep such information accurate and up-to-date, the City of Sacramento does not certify the authenticity of any information that is provided on this website. Under no circumstances will the City of Sacramento be liable for any actions taken or decisions made from reliance on any information contained herein.

☐ I have read and accepted the above terms.

Continue Registration »
STEP 4: CREATE YOUR PROFILE, YOU MUST RECEIVE THE ACCOUNT VERIFICATION EMAIL TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS
STEP 5: ONCE YOUR ACCOUNT IS VERIFIED, LOGIN INTO YOUR NEW ACCOUNT & CLICK “OPERATING PERMIT”
STEP 6: CLICK “CREATE AN APPLICATION”
STEP 7: ACCEPT THE TERMS & CONDITIONS, THEN CLICK “CREATE APPLICATION”

1. ACCEPT TERMS & CONDITIONS
2. CLICK CONTINUE APPLICATION
STEP 8: CLICK “SPECIAL BUSINESS”
STEP 9: SELECT YOUR BUSINESS PERMIT TYPE & CONTINUE WITH FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

SELECT BUSINESS PERMIT TYPE