

## Illegal Posting of Signs

It is illegal to post any form of signage including advertisements in the City of Boston.

Posters, handbills or any other form of announcement or statement **cannot** be placed on, attached to, hung from, propped against, or written on city buildings, poles or traffic lights posts, columns, waste receptacles, private property or trees.

Certain forms of commercial signage are allowed with a building permit under the City of Boston Zoning Code.

## Shopping Carts



Businesses must properly store and maintain their shopping carts and comply with the following:

- install a barrier to prevent carts from being taken off property,
- affix a vertical arm precluding the cart from exiting the store.
- install an electronic wheel lock mechanism which will activate when the cart leaves an established perimeter,
- place identity tags on all shopping carts, identifying the owner of the cart with a local address and telephone number.

*Carts found off site and are not retrieved by owner will be removed by the department and stored at ISD, 1010 Mass Ave., Boston.*



## Un-shoveled Sidewalks

*Once Snow Fall Has Stopped*

Residential property owners have three hours to remove ice, slush or snow after the snow has stopped.

Commercial property owners, must remove ice, slush or snow, three hours after the snow has stopped.

Property owners are required to shovel the sidewalks abutting their property thus making them safe for pedestrians. Snow removal should cover the full paved width of the sidewalk or minimum of 42" wide.

Shoveling or plowing snow from private property onto city streets or sidewalks is a violation of the City Ordinance (16-12.16).

Shoveling or plowing snow into the city streets can create a serious public safety issue.

**Inspectional Services Department**  
**Code Enforcement Police**  
1010 Mass Ave., 4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02118  
Tel. 617-635-4895  
Fax. 617-635-3218  
[www.cityofboston.gov](http://www.cityofboston.gov)

CITY OF BOSTON

INSPECTIONAL  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Code  
Enforcement**

**Protecting the  
Quality  
of  
Life in Boston**



Mayor  
**Thomas M Menino**  
City of Boston

*Code Enforcement Police (CEP) is a unit within the Environmental Sanitation Division. Officers are responsible for enforcing codes pertaining to: unshoveled sidewalks, illegal vending, posting signs without authority, site cleanliness and all trash related issues pertaining to both businesses and residential properties.*

## Trash

### Storage of Trash



### Residential

Maintaining the quality of life for Boston residents is a must.

Therefore ensuring garbage, trash and debris are properly disposed of is very important.

City litter baskets are for pedestrian use only. Do not use for disposal of household trash.

Garbage, trash and debris must be stored in two-ply plastic bags or rodent proof containers.

*“Rodent proof containers” are defined as a barrel or dumpster with a tight fitting lid.”*

The use of “grocery store” plastic or paper bags is not allowed under Boston’s trash ordinance.

Improper storage and disposal of trash brings problems with odors, cleanliness and rodents. If your receptacles are inadequate or your storage area is not clean, contact your landlord or property manager.

Note: Trash pickup days and times vary by neighborhood. If you are unsure of the exact pick up day and time for your neighborhood call the Public Works Department at 635-7555.

## Commercial

Commercial establishments must securely tie newspapers, wood scraps, cardboard boxes and other loose items into bundles. These items should then be placed neatly on the sidewalk.

Place trash in two ply bags or dumpsters. Garbage, trash and debris must be placed in a barrel or dumpster with a tight fitting lid.



## Street Vending

### General Merchandise

Vendors selling merchandise in the city of Boston are required to have a Hawkers and Peddlers License. This license may be obtained from the State Department of Licensure, One Ashburton Place Boston.

Vendors intending to sell goods on a public sidewalk or property, must obtain a permit from the Department of Public Works (DPW), City Hall Plaza, Rm. 714.

Selling goods on private property will require a Use of Premises Permit from the Inspectional Services Department, 1010 Mass Ave. Boston.

Applicants are also required to obtain a copy of the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code 105CMR

590.000 and the Federal Food Code.

These documents can be found at the State House Bookstore, Rm.116, Boston MA.

## Food Permits

In addition to the Hawkers and Peddlers License food vendors must apply for and obtain a health permit. Applications can be obtained from the City of Boston’s Health Division, 1010 Mass Ave., Boston.

## Penalties

Vendors found in non-compliance of the rules and regulations governing city and states licenses and permits will have their merchandise confiscated by a Code Enforcement Officer and fines will be assessed.

## Yard Parking

Property owners intending to park or provide parking for tenants on the front, side or rear of their property must apply for and obtain a Use of Premise permit from the Building Division at Boston Inspectional Services.

The permit application requires the following:

- the dimension of the useable space,
- the number of cars intended to park on the property,
- a plot plan showing the dimensions of the property.