



What is Legal for Adult Use?

It is legal for adults 21 or older to possess, consume and cultivate cannabis in California. Sale of cannabis from licensed retail outlets will become legal January 1, 2018. If you are 18 or older, you can use cannabis if you have a current qualifying physician's recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana identification card. The new law, known as the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act,¹ includes information about where you can use cannabis, how much you can possess, and the penalties for illegal use. Here are a few things you should know.



Buying, Selling, and Giving

- If you are 21 or older, you can buy and possess up to one ounce (28.5 grams) of cannabis and up to eight grams of concentrated cannabis (separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from cannabis).²
 - You can only buy cannabis at retail outlets licensed by the California Bureau of Cannabis Control.³
 - Although you can legally possess cannabis, it is illegal for you to sell it without a license.⁴
 - You can give up to one ounce (28.5 grams) of cannabis and up to eight grams of concentrated cannabis to a person 21 or older, but you cannot receive money or any form of compensation.⁵

Where You Can Use

- You can use cannabis on private property. You cannot use, smoke, eat, or vape cannabis in public places. Property owners and landlords can ban the use and possession of cannabis on their properties.^{6,7}
- You cannot use cannabis within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center, or youth center while children are present.⁸
- Even though it is legal in California, you cannot use or possess cannabis on federal lands like national parks, even if the park is in California.⁹



Drivers and Passengers

- If you are under the influence of cannabis while operating a car, boat, or other vehicle, a law enforcement officer can pull you over and conduct a sobriety test.¹⁰

1 Senate Bill No.94, Sess. of 2017 (Cal. 2017) https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB94

2 California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.1

3 California Business and Professions Code Section 26140

4 California Health and Safety Code Section 11359

5 California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.1

6 California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.45 (h)

7 California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3 (a)(2)

8 California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3

9 Controlled Substances Act (CSA) (21 U.S.C. § 811)

10 California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3(a)(7), 11362.45(a), and 11362.3(a)(8)

- Having an open container of cannabis in a vehicle while driving or riding in the passenger seat is against the law. If you have cannabis in a vehicle, it must be in an approved sealed package or container. Otherwise, it must be kept in the trunk of the vehicle.¹¹
- Keep it in California. It is illegal to take your cannabis across state lines, even if you are traveling to another state where cannabis is legal.¹²



Growing and Processing

- If you are 21 or older, you can plant, cultivate, harvest, dry, and process up to six cannabis plants in your private residence or on the grounds of your residence.¹³
- If you are growing cannabis, the plants must be in a locked space that is not visible to the public. Cities and counties may prohibit the outdoor cultivation of cannabis.
- It is against the law for you to use a volatile solvent for the manufacture of concentrated cannabis for your own personal use.¹⁴

Other Laws

- Even though it is legal in California, employers have the right to prohibit the use of cannabis by their employees. Know your workplace cannabis policies.¹⁵
- Cities and counties may have stricter laws than the state about cannabis use. Know your local cannabis laws.¹⁶
- There are several penalties for violating cannabis law including fines, jail time, community service, and drug education.

NOTE: Cannabis remains illegal under federal law. This document is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the requirements and limitations for the personal use of cannabis and the penal laws pertaining to cannabis in California. For more information, visit: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB94.

¹¹ California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3(a)(4)

¹² Section 812 of Title 21 of the U.S. Code; California Business and Professions Code 26080

¹³ California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.2

¹⁴ California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3(a)(6), California Business and Professions Code 26000 et seq.

¹⁵ California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.45

¹⁶ California Health Safety Code Section 11362.2