

Questions and Answers about Cannabis

Am I at risk for imbibing pesticide-laden cannabis? How easy is it for kids to buy cannabis? Will I see big billboards advertising recreational cannabis? How many cannabis businesses will I see in my neighborhood?

The city of Berkeley, the Berkeley Cannabis Commission, and the state of California have all been working very hard to ensure that cannabis is free of harmful toxins, that it is very difficult for youth to purchase, and that it is not advertised overtly. The number of businesses selling cannabis is currently limited to 6.

Cannabis is Tested to Ensure Public Health

Rigorous regulations require growers and companies to engage in safe production practices. With the new state regulations in place, all cannabis is tested by a third party - no grower, manufacturer, or distributor may test their own product. They must employ a separate and independent testing service to measure the levels of pesticides and other harmful substances in the cannabis. Only if the levels are consistent with California state approved levels will the cannabis flower and or related cannabis products be approved for consumer sale.

Children will not have Access to Cannabis

The Berkeley Cannabis Commission is in strong favor of stringent regulations that ensure no persons under the age of 21 will have access to Cannabis unless prescribed by their doctor. Previously successful government issued identification mandates will be put in place and recreational cannabis will only be legal for those 21 years of age or older to purchase. Furthermore, cannabis businesses will be required to have minimal signage, no ostentatious symbology, and no billboards within the Berkeley city limits.

Advertising is Restricted to the Facts

In restricting what can and cannot be advertised to the public, California and Berkeley are taking steps to ensure that those who choose to use cannabis, recreationally or medicinally, are being presented with factual information to allow them to make decisions that are best for their personal health and well-being. The information in retail ads will be truthful and appropriately substantiated.

Buffers Zones Required Between Cannabis Businesses

Cannabis retailers (the only cannabis businesses publicly accessible) will need at least a 600 foot zone between themselves and any school from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Number of Retail Stores is Limited

Currently Berkeley has only licensed 6 retail storefronts for the City of Berkeley.

Cannabis Rules At A Glance

1. No one under the age of 21 will be allowed to purchase recreational cannabis.
2. Rigorous testing for pesticides and other toxins will be undertaken for all cannabis products prior to reaching the consumer.
3. Cannabis billboards will be prohibited in Berkeley.
4. All Advertising shall be truthful and appropriately substantiated.
5. No retail cannabis stores shall be located within ~2 city blocks (600 feet) of a school providing instruction in kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12.
6. No alcohol or tobacco products shall be sold on the same premises as a cannabis business.