

Helsinki

Terrace instructions



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What is a terrace, and where can it be set up?

For the purpose of these instructions, a terrace refers to **an outdoor serving area in front of existing business premises, usually in the street area**. The terrace can also be set up as a parklet, in which case it is located in a parking space in front of the business premises. An outdoor serving can be separated from the related restaurant or café (i.e. the food premises) by no more than one street. The terraces are subject to a terrace area lease agreement with the City of Helsinki Urban Environment Division's Land Use and Monitoring Unit.

However, there are exceptions to the rule. Helsinki often also has some temporary terrace areas in the city squares or parks during the summer. The terrace may also be located on a private plot instead of a street area owned by the City. In these cases, the setting up of the terrace and the use of the terrace area must be agreed on with the owner or holder of the area rather than with the Land Use and Monitoring Unit. However, the other requirements for terraces provided in these instructions must be complied with also in these cases.

Terraces that impede the use of public city space, access to a property, accessibility or traffic safety are not allowed. Also, there are certain places in the centre of Helsinki where terraces are not allowed (for the areas, see the [map](#)).

What are the requirements for setting up a terrace?

At least the following must be taken care of before starting terrace operations:

1

Building owner's agreement on setting up the terrace.

2

Application to lease the terrace area if the terrace is located in a public area of the City of Helsinki (typically a street area).

3

Terrace area lease agreement.

4

Establishing the need for notification of a food facility under the Food Act.

5

You may also need a permit from the Building Control Services if the terrace includes fixed or permanent structures, for example. A glazed terrace always requires a permit from the Building Control Services. Instructions on how to apply for the permit can be found at the end of these instructions.

6

When setting up a parklet, also submit a notification about work in a public area before starting construction.

All terraces are also required to comply with the guidelines provided in these instructions.

Steps to set up terrace operations

Follow this path to apply a terrace permit. All terraces are also required to comply with the guidelines provided in these instructions.



APPROXIMATELY 6–8 WEEKS

How to do: steps to set up a terrace in Helsinki

	Building owner's agreement	Terrace application *	A notification about work in a public area	Actions related to street use	Notification of a food facility	Building and operation permit applications
Mini terrace	●					
Terrace area located outside the business premises	●	●			○	○
Parklet	●	●	●	●	○	○
Terrace with a serving station where food or drink is prepared or sold	●	●	○	○	●	○
Terrace with fixed or permanent structures, measures affecting the facade, advertising or the construction of which affects the facade or significantly affects the city environment	●	●	○	○	○	●
Glazed and/or roofed terrace	●	●	○	○	○	●

- Competent representative of the building (for example, the property manager or the board of the housing association)
- Land Use and Monitoring Unit of Helsinki Urban Environment Division
- Land Use and Monitoring Unit of Helsinki Urban Environment Division
- Available from various service provider
- Environmental Services of Helsinki Urban Environment Division
- Building Control Services of Helsinki Urban Environment Division
- Essential
- When necessary

* Terrace application to the Land Use and Monitoring Unit is not necessary, if the terrace is located on a private plot instead of a street area owned by the City or even on some temporary terrace areas. In these cases, the setting up of the terrace and the use of the terrace area must be agreed on with the owner or holder of the area

Transactions with other authorities are often necessary as well (a license to serve alcohol for example)

Note! The City does not require separate permits, agreements or notifications in case of small-scale terraces of the so-called “mini terrace” type. The other preconditions for the setting up of a terrace must, of course, be complied with: you must have agreement from the building owner (e.g. a housing company), and the terrace must not impede the use of public city space, access to a property, accessibility or traffic safety. Similar to other terraces, a mini terrace must not reduce the width of the free pedestrian pathway to less than 150 cm or the free height to less than 220 cm.

Please note that there are streets in the city centre where even mini terraces are not allowed and that the pedestrian city centre area has specific dimensioning regulations for terrace placement. See the [map](#) for the areas and special dimensions.

Definition of a small-scale or mini terrace:

- maximum width of 80 cm from the premises' facade towards the street area, with the area located right next to the facade, and
- constructed of lightweight structures in accordance with the requirements provided in these instructions.

1 Obtain the building owner's agreement

Contact the owner of the building outside which the business premises are located and ask for their agreement to set up a terrace in front of the premises. The agreement must be in writing. You can ask for the agreement using the [form provided here](#).

2 Submit a terrace application

The application is made according to the [instructions on the website](#).

Submit the following attachments:

- Drawing of the location of the terrace at a scale of 1/500, showing the location on the map template. The map template is available at [kartta.hel.fi](#).
- Floor plan of the terrace at a scale of 1/50 or 1/100. The floor plan should detail the terrace's dimensions (length and width), furniture placement, access routes and entrances and the free width of the area intended for pedestrians. The terrace area must not take more than half of the width of the area intended for pedestrians. Please note that the width of the free pedestrian pathway must always be at least 150 cm and the free height at least 220 cm. Note also that the [pedestrian city centre area \(pdf, 5MB\)](#) and [Keskuskatu \(pdf\)](#) have specific dimensioning regulations for terrace placement.
- The building owner's (typically a housing company) written agreement on allowing the general area in front of the business premises to be used for outdoor serving purposes.
- Trade Register extract of the applying company from the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland [www.prh.fi](#). The extract must not be more than three months old.
- Photographs of the street area and the facade in front of which the terrace is to be located. Parklet application: also submit photographs of the existing traffic signs and street gullies in the area.
- Photographs or drawings of the furniture and structures to be placed on the terrace.
- Parklet application: also submit proof of a valid liability insurance policy.
- A power of attorney if the permit is applied by an attorney.

3 The decision on the application is also the agreement

By submitting the terrace application, you agree to the terrace agreement's terms that are also provided in the terrace and terrace furniture requirements of these instructions. The decision on the terrace application will be sent to the applicant by email. The decision is also the lease agreement for the terrace area. The rent charged for the use of the area will be in accordance with the current price list.

If you plan to have both a terrace and a parklet outside your business premises, a separate application

and agreement shall be made for each.

4 Establish the need for notification of a food facility

Notification of a food facility under the Food Act is likely to be required if the terrace includes a food serving station or preparation area or the number of customer places in the food premises increases significantly due to the construction of a new terrace or an extension to an existing one. You can establish the need for the notification by contacting the Environmental Services' information on foodstuffs service on weekdays from 9:00 to 11:00, tel. 09 310 14000, or by email to elintarviketurvallisuus@hel.fi. If the notification is required, it is made at <https://ilppa.fi/>.

5 Establish the need for a Building Control Services' terrace permit

Apply for a Building Control Services' terrace permit if the terrace includes fixed or permanent structures, actions affecting the facade, advertising or has a significant impact on the cityscape. Instructions on how to apply for the permit can be found at the end of these instructions.

6 When setting up a parklet, also submit a notification about work in a public area before starting construction

After securing the lease agreement on the parklet area, submit a [notification about work in a public area](#) to the Land Use and Monitoring Unit before starting the construction of the parklet. You typically need to submit both the area leasing and the temporary traffic arrangement notification for parklets.

If you have any questions before submitting your application (for example, if you want to make sure that the parking space in question is suitable for use as a parklet), please contact the [inspectors \(pdf\)](#) of the area where the terrace is located by telephone on weekdays from 10:00 to 11:30 or by email to ulkoilma@hel.fi.

Do you plan to modify or extend an existing terrace?

You do not need to contact the City to change the furniture or carry out small modifications within the terrace area as long as the terrace complies with these instructions also after the changes. If the size of the terrace or the lease period specified in the agreement changes, the terrace agreement must be changed accordingly. A change in the size will affect the rent charged for the terrace area. Any changes to the agreement shall be made in the Urban Environment Division's Land Use and Monitoring Unit. In case of structural changes within the area, or changes in the cityscape (e.g., advertising, facade changes), apply for a permit from the Building Control Services.

Terrace and terrace furniture requirements

Placement

The location of the business premises in the city affects the setting up and dimensioning of the terrace. There are areas in the pedestrian city centre area where terraces are not allowed (see the red areas on the [map](#)) and that have specific dimensioning regulations for terrace placement. [Keskuskatu](#) has specific dimensioning regulations.

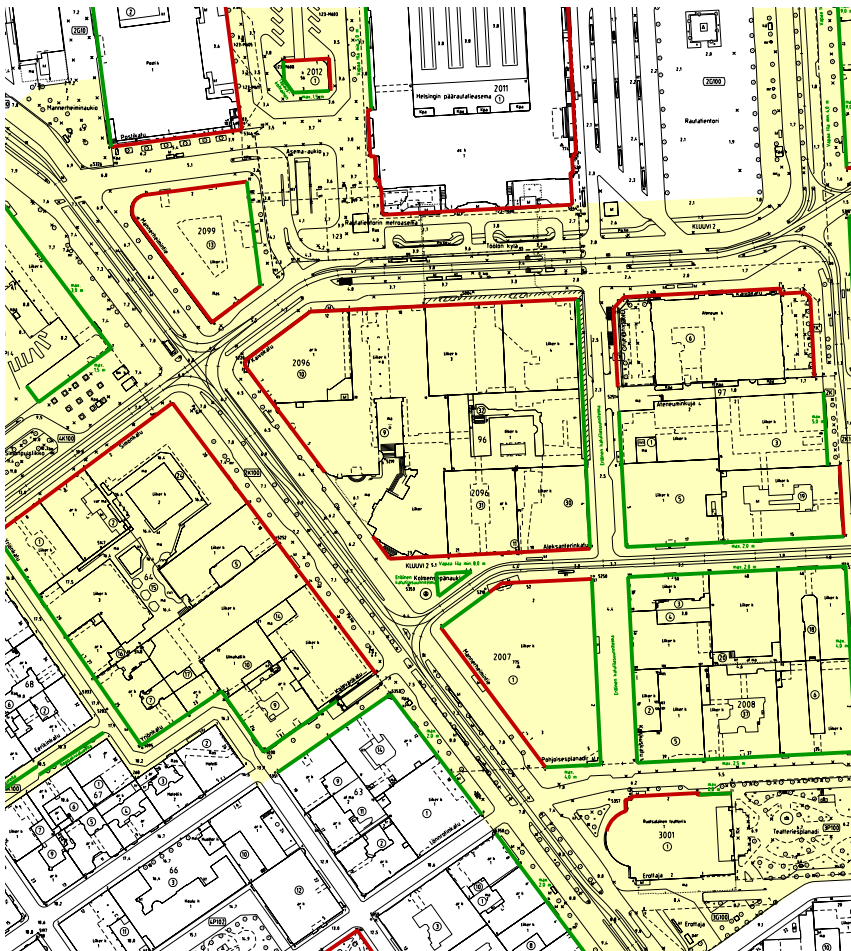
Parklets can be set up on on-street parking areas only. Parklets cannot be set up on a no-parking zone or other street areas.

If the terrace is located in connection with a residential building or the immediate vicinity of residences, the terrace may be used only until 23:00.

Terrace structures may need to be dismantled at short notice due to municipal engineering or emergency work. The City shall not be liable for any costs or damages resulting from said work to the lessee of the terrace area or parklet.

Excerpt from the terrace area map of the pedestrian city centre area

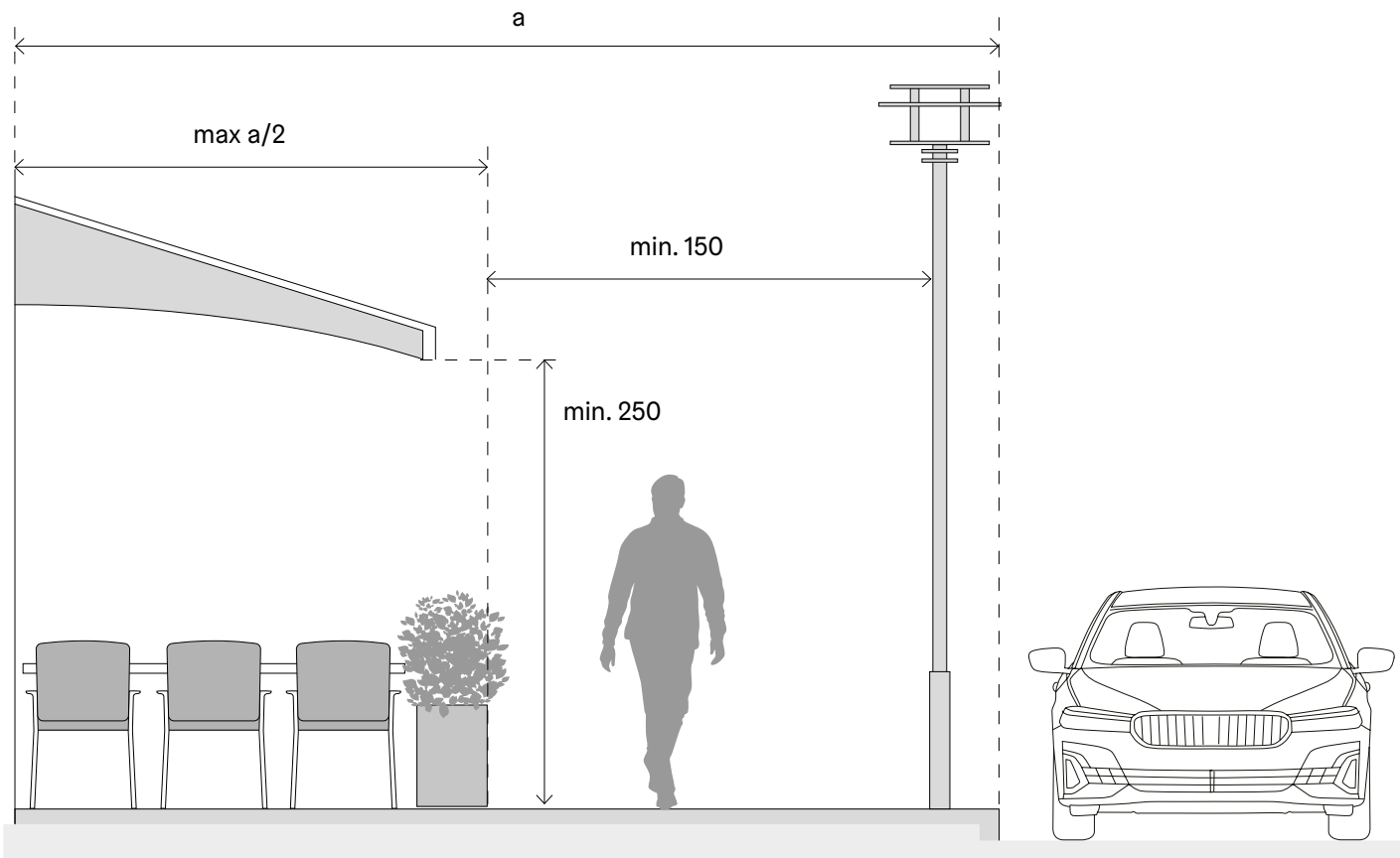
The map is indicative and can be viewed on a case-by-case basis.



In some areas of the pedestrian city centre area, there are separate guidelines for the placement and measurement of terraces. The picture shows an excerpt from the map, which can be seen in its entirety on our website or directly via this [link](#).

When viewing the map, it is a good idea to zoom in.

- The pedestrian city centre area (pricing zone 1)
- Other area (pricing zone 2)
- Terrace area allowed (with specific dimensioning regulations)
- Terrace area not allowed



Demarcation and distances

As a rule, the terrace area and the associated equipment must not take more than half of the free width of the area intended for pedestrians. The width of the free pedestrian pathway must always be at least 150 cm.

Defining the free area requires case-specific assessment. Factors such as the number of pedestrians, street lights, trees on the street, traffic signs and other street equipment, cycling lanes, bus stops and the space needed for emergency vehicle access may affect the measuring process. The free space requirements for maintenance must also be considered in the design.

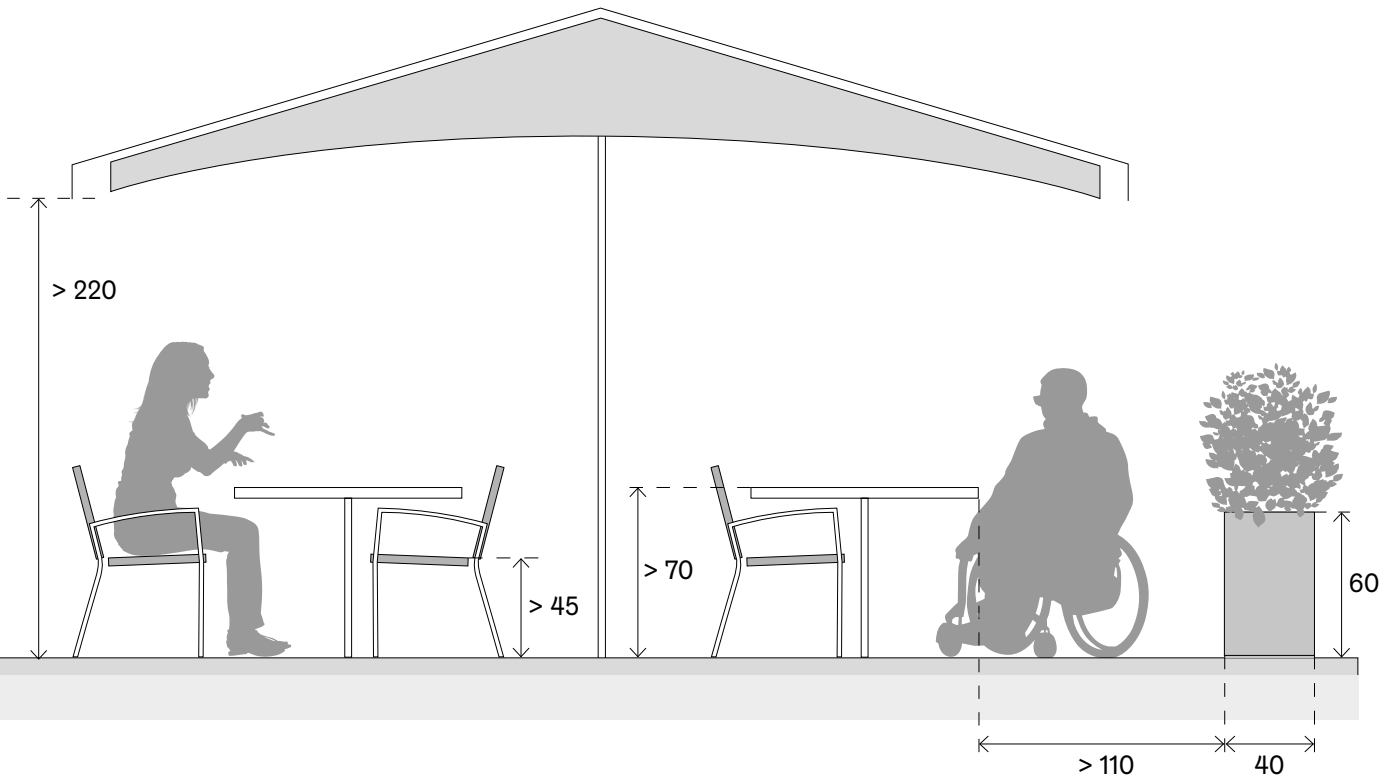
The height of the free space must always be at least 220 cm. Regarding awnings and other similar structures installed to the facade, the free passage below must be at least 250 cm.

The open feeling of the street must be maintained. Wall-like structures are not allowed. If the terrace requires demarcation due to busy traffic conditions or some other reason, it should be discreet and carried out using flower boxes or open metal railings,

A separate permit from the Building Control Services is not required if the terrace is constructed in accordance with the instructions on pages 4 to 5 and without fixed or permanent structures.

for example. The railings should be painted in dark colour. Glass or rope railings are not recommended unless there are well-founded reasons to use them. State the reasons in the application.

Fabric covers or banners that cover the railings must not be attached to them. The maximum height for railings, flower boxes and other structural demarcation elements is 90 cm. Demarcation elements must be placed inside the defined terrace area. For safety reasons, the height of parklet demarcation must always be 90 cm.



Base and covers

As a rule, the terrace shall be set up directly on the street surface without any elevated platform or carpet. The structures must not damage the street surface, must be easy to dismantle, and must not prevent storm water drainage. Nothing must be fixed to the street, and all structures must be within the limits of the terrace area.

Ground platforms are only allowed on slanting or uneven surfaces. If the terrace furniture cannot be placed directly on the street surface, it must be mentioned in the terrace application, and the drawings must include a plan to solve the issue. If the drop from a terrace platform built due to a slanting surface is less than 50 cm, the platform does not require a permit from the Building Control Services.

When covering the terrace, use parasols or awnings. The shape, colour and structure of the parasols and awnings should match both the building and the surroundings. Parasols and awnings that are not fixed to the ground and straight-top pergola awnings with open sides and mounted against the facade do not require a permit from the Building Control Services.

Furniture

Select light, durable and stackable terrace chairs and tables that match the surroundings. The furniture must be intended for outside use, undamaged and clean. Select colours that match the surroundings. White furniture is not recommended, and the use of flimsy plastic furniture is forbidden.

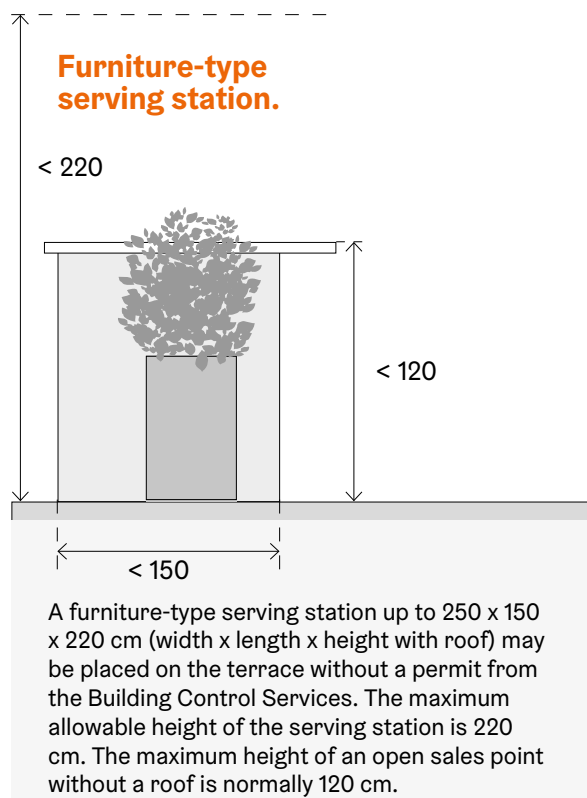
The furniture of an active terrace can be kept in the terrace area also outside the terrace opening hours. Winter storage of furniture or structures in the terrace area is not allowed.

If you want to set up a separate serving station on your terrace, state it in the terrace application and include it in the plans, complete with dimensions. A furniture-type serving station up to 250 x 150 x 220 cm (width x length x height with roof) may be placed on the terrace without a permit from the Building Control Services. The maximum allowable height of the serving station is 220 cm. The maximum height of an open sales point without a roof is normally 120 cm.

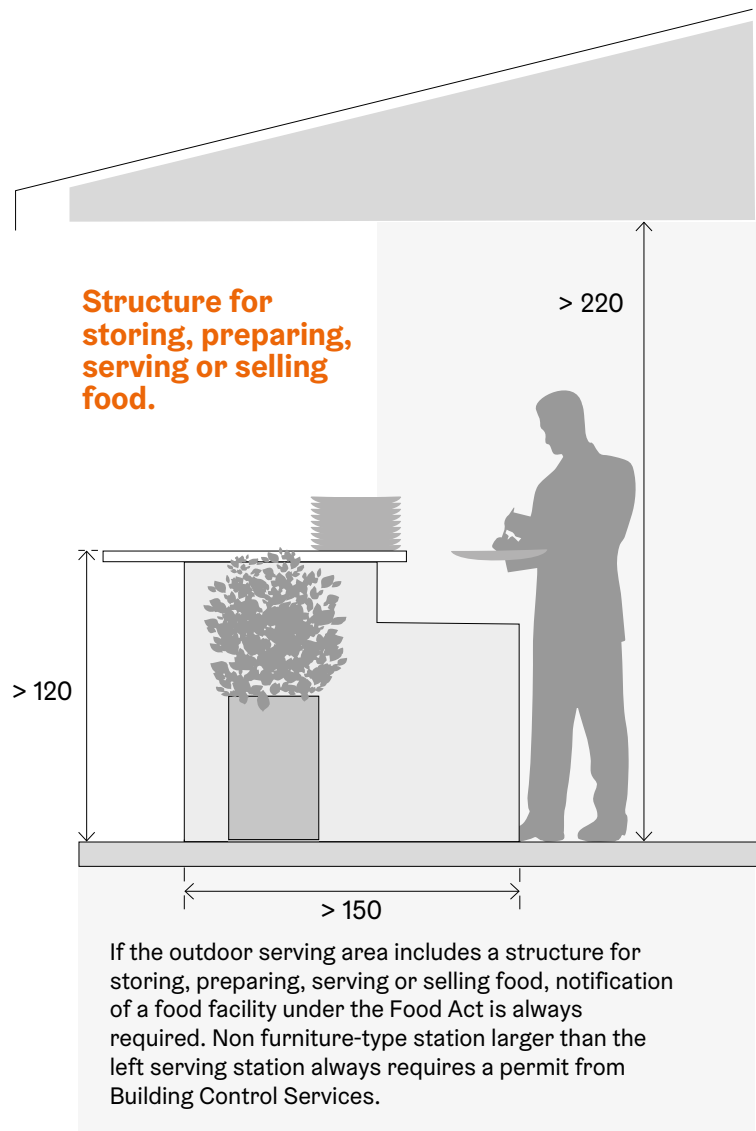
The serving station must be under staff supervision, and all sales must take place within the serving area. A serving station with sales activity must be accessible for wheelchair users. In this case, the height of the serving counter should be 70–85 cm.

If the outdoor serving area includes a structure for storing, preparing, serving or selling food, notification of a food facility under the Food Act is always required. Observe the following in the design and construction:

- The construction materials of the internal surfaces of the food preparation area must be fixed and easy to clean.
- The food preparation area must have adequate shelter (roof and three sidewalls).
- The preparation area must have enough water points. If food is prepared on the terrace, it must have a fixed connection to the City's water supply and sewer system. If the operation is small-scale, a lesser water point solution suffice.
- The space must include a hygienic storage space for cleaning equipment and cleaning agents. Cleaning equipment must be cleaned, maintained and stored in a hygienic manner.
- There must be sufficient space for the handling, preparation and storage of food products.
- Dishwashing must be properly arranged.
- The food preparation area should be located close to the establishment's permanent kitchen to enable easy and quick transport of ingredients, tools and dishes and facilitate other maintenance of the food preparation area. Also, there should be staff toilet and changing facilities nearby.
- The placement of the preparation area must consider the spread of food odours in the environment.



The terrace must not cause any noise or odor nuisance to the environment.



Recommendation on minimum quantities of toilet facilities

Number of customer seats	Toilet facilities for women	Toilet facilities for men
	(number of seats)	(number of seats + urinals)
over six but under 25	one common toilet facility	
25–50	1	1
51–100	3	1 + 1
101–150	4	1 + 2
151–200	4	2 + 2
201–250	5	2 + 3
251–300	5	2 + 4
301–400	6	3 + 4
Over 400	case-specific	

The recommendations of the table includes toilets for people with reduced mobility. There should be unobstructed access from the terrace to the accessible toilet facilities.

Plan the terrace to suit to all – also to people with reduced mobility.

Terrace arrangements

Toilets

Ensure that there are sufficient toilet facilities in relation to the number of customer seats. The terrace customer seats may increase the necessary number of available toilet facilities. As a rule, terrace customers use the toilet facilities of the restaurant outside which the terrace is located. Use the indicative recommendations in the table below when determining the appropriate number of toilet facilities.

According to building regulations, the owner of a restaurant or café with 25 or more customer seats must ensure that at least one of the toilet facilities is accessible, i.e. designed and equipped for people with reduced mobility. There should be unobstructed access from the terrace to the accessible toilet facilities.

The nature of the operations affects the appropriate number of toilet facilities. Licensed bars and pubs, for example, should have more toilet facilities compared to dining restaurants. Approximately half of the terrace customer seats should be considered in the design (for example, if the restaurant has 30 customer seats and the terrace has 20 customer seats, toilet facilities should be designed for 40 customer seats). The recommendation can also be used to design unisex toilet facilities.

Accessibility

Plan the terrace to suit also to people with reduced mobility. The entrance to the terrace area must be at least 90 cm wide to allow for easy wheelchair access. Consider accessibility also when selecting the furniture. It is recommended to have all the terrace customer seats accessible, but from the regulatory point of view, it is sufficient to have some accessible customer seats.

Using contrasting colours, such as light coloured tables and dark chairs, improve their visibility for visually impaired people. Ensure that at least some furniture are suitable for people in wheelchairs with regards to height and depth.

The table legs of a piece of furniture suitable for people with reduced mobility should be at least 80 cm apart from each other, or the tabletop should protrude at least 60 cm from the end of the table. The height of the tables should be 70–85 cm. Some chairs should have a backrest and hand rests with a seating height of 45–50 cm to make them accessible for a person in a wheelchair.

Safety

Ensure that the exits and emergency exits of the business premises are accessible and comply with the appropriate regulatory requirements. The route from the premises entrance doors must be kept free from any obstacles all the way to the street, at least in the width of the entrance door.

Design the terrace lighting with consideration to the surrounding lighting. Overly bright lights disturbing the traffic or dwellings are not allowed. Candles and other open flames are only allowed when protected and placed so that they do not cause a fire hazard.

Terrace heaters can be used, but open lights are not allowed on the terrace or street area. Remember also that gas oil lamps, for example, must not be placed too close to materials that may catch fire and that their use is subject to a permit from the fire and rescue authorities.

Sustainability

The design and operation of the terrace should favour environmentally friendly choices. The most sustainable choice is to use non-toxic wooden structures and reusable tableware and utensils. If the use of disposable tableware cannot be avoided, prefer biodegradable options. Provide waste sorting facilities also for the terrace customers and prevent the spread of waste from the tables or bins to outside the terrace. Prefer blankets instead of electric or gas-fuelled heaters. Choose energy-efficient devices.

Order, cleanliness and maintenance

The owner of the terrace is responsible for keeping the terrace and its immediate surroundings clean, preventing slipperiness and disposing of waste every day. Make sure that the entire terrace area is kept tidy. Any debris and waste originating outside the café or restaurant – such as twigs or leaves – must also be removed from the terrace area.

In the case of winter terraces, snow must be removed both from the terrace and the pedestrian pathway by the terrace up to the roadway.

The terrace operations must not cause any odour or noise disturbance to the surroundings. If smoking is permitted on the terrace, there must be an appropriate container for cigarette butts.

Serving of alcohol

The terrace must be set up to allow for efficient monitoring of the serving of alcohol. The serving area must be clearly defined (see previous sections on demarcation).

The license to serve alcohol granted to your restaurant does not automatically cover the terrace area. The serving of alcohol is only allowed in the serving area approved by the Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland. The area is defined in the license to serve alcohol and the associated decision documents.

Advertising

As for advertising, you can have a menu, price list and information on opening hours visible in the terrace area attached to a signboard or railing, for example. The signboard (1 per business premise) must be inside the terrace area defined in the terrace area lease agreement. A signboard of max. 60 cm x 60 cm can be attached to the railing on each terrace side. If you want additional advertisements on your terrace, please contact the Building Control Services.

Agreement, lease rate list and opening times

Opening times

A terrace season is divided into the summer and winter seasons. The summer season is from 1 April to 31 October, and the winter season is from 1 November to 31 March. The minimum lease period is one month.

Due to noise issues, the permitted terrace opening hours are from 07:00 to 23:00 when the terrace is close to homes. Music is allowed until 22:00, but sound amplification equipment must always be adjusted so that the noise does not cause inconvenience or nuisance to the neighbourhood. Drinking alcohol on the terrace must stop by 23:00 at the latest.

The building owner's housing rules and regulations may also limit the opening hours.

Terrace agreement and lease rate list

A lease agreement is made for the terrace area with a monthly rent paid for the use of the respective square area. There is one exception to the above: no rent will be charged for the so-called mini terraces, which are no more than 80 centimetres wide and located right next to the business premises' facade. If the terrace area is wider, rent will be charged based on the total square area.

Terrace area lease agreements are made with the Urban Environment Division's Land Use and Monitoring Unit. A prerequisite for the agreement is that the area remains safe and accessible and the terrace furniture and fixtures are well suited to the urban

surroundings. Furthermore, the use of the terrace must not cause any disturbance to the area.

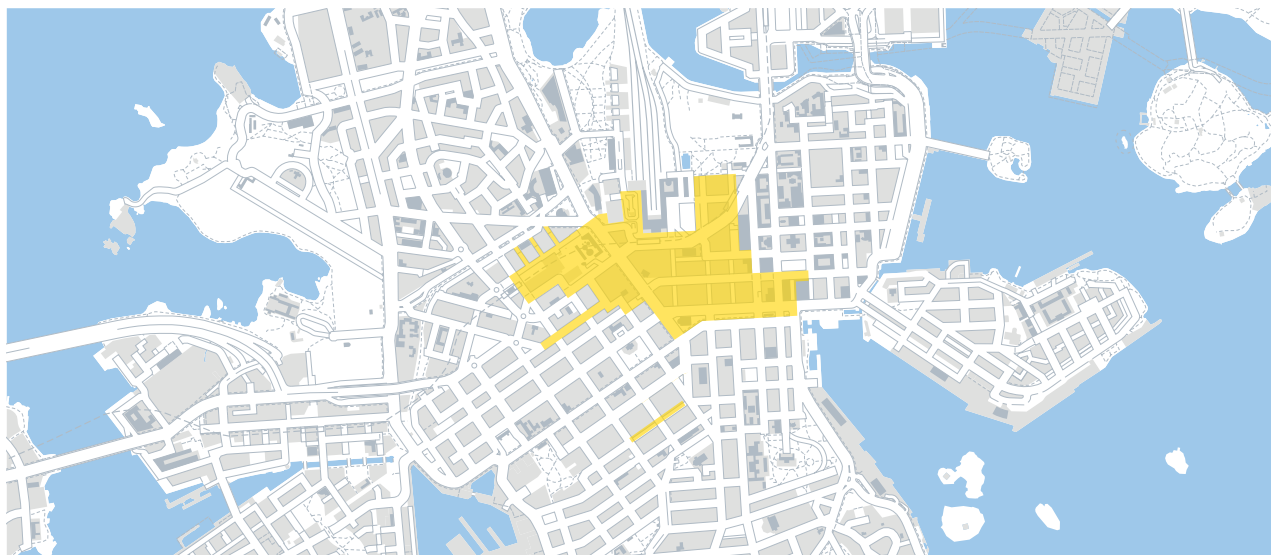
The lease agreement defines the size and location of the outdoor serving area, the width of free pathways and the annual use period.

The minimum terrace area lease period and the minimum billing period are one month. The summer season (1 April to 31 October) rent for the area is higher than that of the winter season (1 November to 31 March). A lease agreement for a conventional terrace outside ground-floor business premises can cover both the summer and winter season, but a parklet agreement can only cover the summer season.

Obligations under a terrace or parklet agreement are valid from the construction of the terrace or parklet up to the restoration of the area to its original condition. The terrace area must be restored to its original condition upon the expiration of the agreement. Any damage to the street surface by the furniture or structures must be repaired. A terrace area used only in summer seasons must be cleared of furniture and structures and restored at the end of the summer season even if the agreement is to continue in the following summer season.

The agreement may be terminated with a notice period of one month by submitting a written notice of termination to the Land Use and Monitoring Unit. If the City terminates the agreement, the notice period is three months. If the City must terminate the terrace agreement for an urgent reason, such as street work or changes to the area's intended purpose, the notice period is two weeks.

Terrace areas and pricing



■ Terrace area 1 □ Terrace area 2

Other City fees related to the terraces

In addition to the rent charged based on the terrace area lease agreement, notifications to the City, the processing of permits and other similar processes related to the setting up of the terrace may be subject to a charge. The processing of the terrace application is free of charge.

Processes subject to a charge include, for example, the processing of a notification under the Food Act, the permit processing of the Building Control Services and the leasing of a public area to set up a parklet and the related arrangements for any requests to move parked vehicles or move said vehicles. All costs related to the terrace or its area, structures or special arrangements due to the terrace (e.g. traffic arrangements), and the costs of maintaining the terrace, are the responsibility of the terrace owner.

Monitoring

The Urban Environment Division's Land Use and Monitoring Unit monitors compliance with the terms of the agreement, while the Environmental Services monitors matters related to terrace food safety. The police monitor public order and safety in the outdoor areas, while the Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland, the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira) and the rescue authority control the restaurant activities.

In case of any omission in the terrace operation, the City will issue a notification on the matter and provide an opportunity to rectify the situation within a reasonable time. If the terrace owner fails to correct the omission within the time provided, the City is entitled to charge a contractual penalty of EUR 500 for each omission separately. If the omission is continuous, the City is entitled to charge a contract penalty of EUR 500 per week. The City is entitled to the contractual penalty in addition to any compensation for damage. The City is also entitled to terminate the agreement and restore the terrace area for the purpose specified in the plan for the area at the negligent party's expense.

Reasons to terminate a terrace or parklet agreement include, for example, the following:

- the area is not used as per the agreement
- the furniture, equipment and structures do not adhere to the agreement
- the compensation is not paid for as per the agreement
- the terrace area presents an obstacle to pedestrians or other traffic
- the traffic or function of the location of the terrace area changes
- a worksite or other temporary change takes place in the area.



Summer season :
1.4.-31.10.


















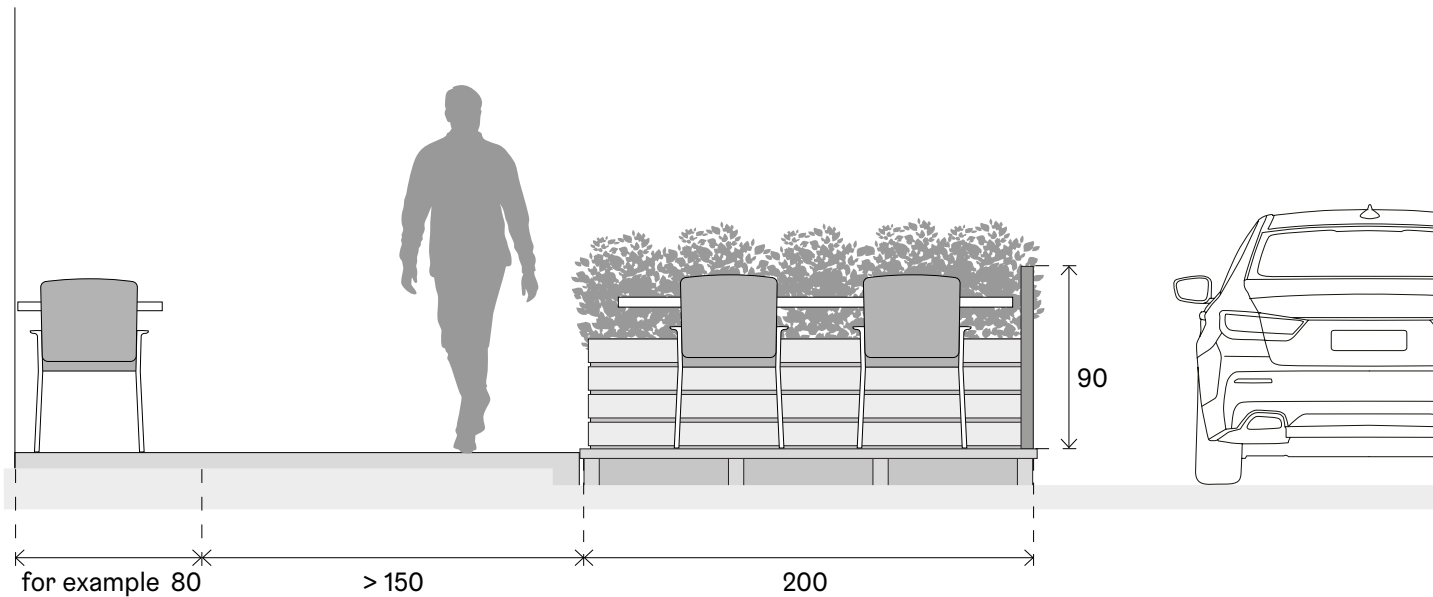
Winter season :
1.11.-31.3.

How do I set up a parklet terrace?

Parklet terraces are terraces set up in a parking space outside the respective restaurant or café. Parklet terraces are subject to the same mandatory guidelines as conventional terraces, with the addition of matters related to traffic and the safe separation of the terrace area in particular. A parklet terrace requires a permit from the Building Control Services under similar conditions as other types of terraces.

A parklet space is an on-street parking space of 2 x 6 m, or 12 m². Parklet provides an option in areas with a lot of pedestrian traffic and narrow or congested pedestrian pathways that prevent setting up conventional terraces. As a rule, the maximum number of parklets allowed per city block is two parklets of 1–2 spaces on each side of the street. Granting a parking space for parklet use is always a case-specific and discretionary process.

What kind of parking space can be suggested for parklet use?	Yes	No	Maybe
Resident parking space			
Paid parking space			
Short-term or guest parking space (2 hours or more with a parking disc)			
Free unlimited parking space			
Angle parking space			
Area where parking or stopping is prohibited			
Area reserved for maintenance and delivery traffic			
Space reserved for a specific purpose (disabled parking, motorcycle parking, car charging point, etc.)			
Space in front of a gateway or other roadway			
Space where the parklet would restrict traffic flow or impair visibility			
Parking space that is not entirely in front of the business premises			
Parking space with a cycling path or lane between it and the respective business premises			
The adjacent street area has a speed limit of more than 40 km/h			
Parking space that is located on a slope			
A street with busy traffic conditions			



A maximum of two adjacent parking spaces can be leased for parklet use, provided that both spaces are located fully in front of the respective business premises' facade. If the space extends beyond the front of the business premises, but there are no business premises next to it, it may be possible to set up a parklet subject to agreement from the building owner. Also, it may be possible to lease a partial parklet (see the image). In any case, the customer will be invoiced per each space and part thereof.

Please feel free to make use of the [parklet example drawings](#) commissioned by the City of Helsinki.

Parklet terrace-specific issues: surrounding traffic and urban environment

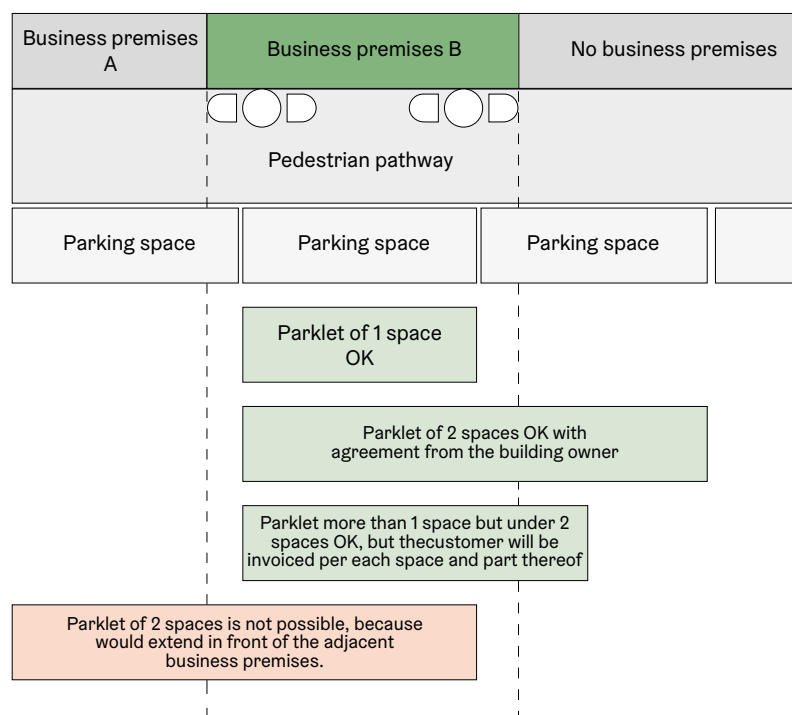
The surrounding traffic and environment must be considered with the utmost care when setting up a parklet. Therefore, the applicant is required to take into account the following:

- traffic volumes and number of pedestrians, speed limits, number of parking spaces in the area, street lights, trees, traffic signs and other street equipment, cycling lanes and the space needed for emergency vehicle access
- sufficient distances to pedestrian crossings, bus and tram stops and tram rails
- maintenance of gullies and other infrastructure must not be hindered.

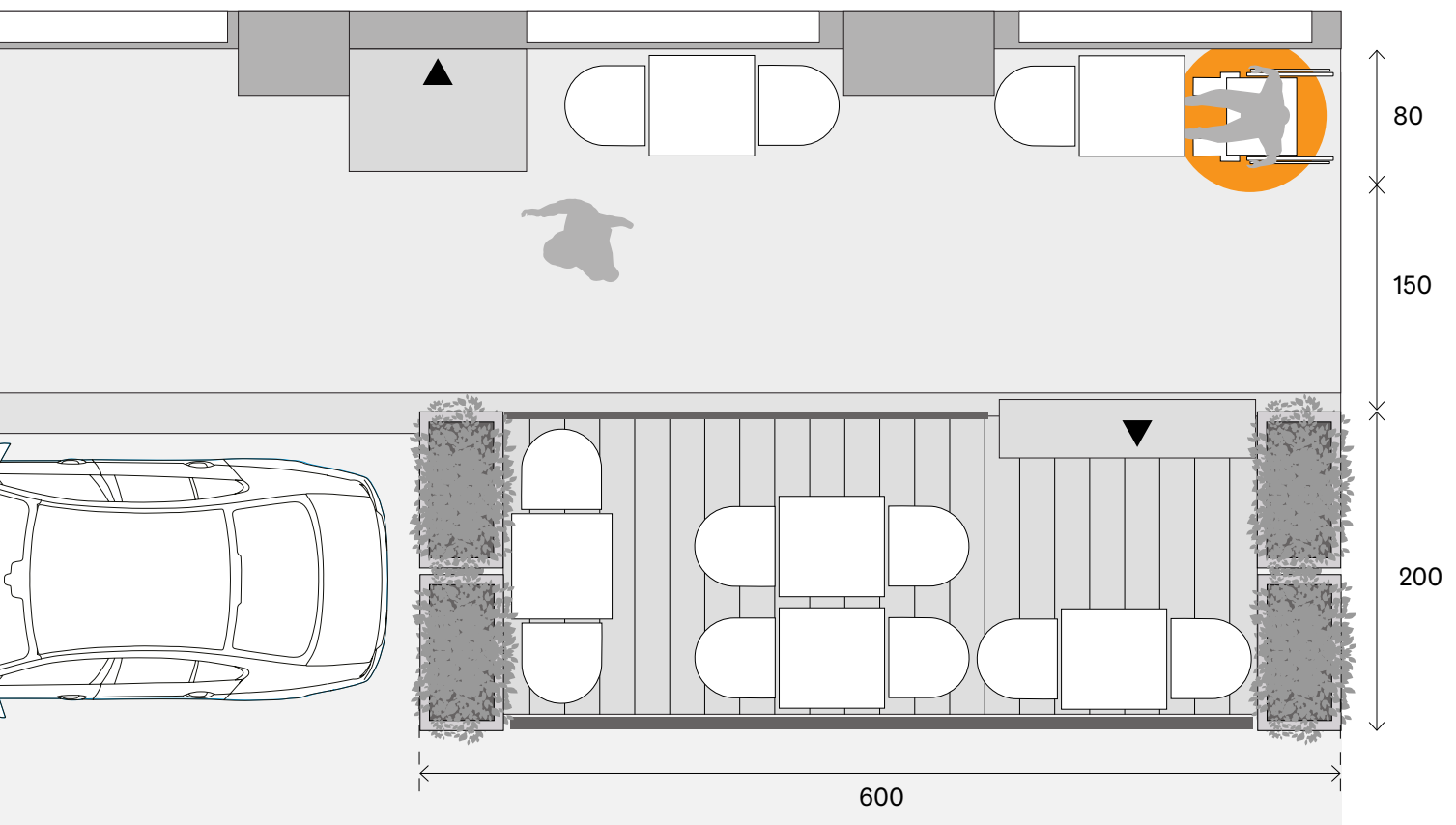
The construction phase of the parklet typically requires the use of an area larger than the leased area. After securing the lease agreement on the parklet area, submit a [notification about work in a public area](#) to the Land Use and Monitoring Unit one to three weeks before starting the construction of the parklet. You typically need to submit both the area leasing and

the temporary traffic arrangement notification for parklets. Include in the notification information on the duration of the work, the location of the equipment and structures used in work and the implementation of temporary traffic arrangements, for example. The notification procedure provides the right to use the public area as a work area and implement a traffic control plan during work with the appropriate temporary no-parking signs. More information: <https://www.hel.fi/helsinki/en/housing/plots-land-buildings/permits-for-public-areas/working-on-streets-and-in-parks>

Parking space for parklet use



How do I set up a parklet terrace?



Work related to the using of the street area includes setting of the temporary no-parking signs, preparation of protocols and documents and any moving of parked vehicles. Lessee of the parklet area can order work from various service providers at their own expense.

There is no need to change or move any traffic signs if the parklet is located along the length of the city block or the intended parklet use space is the last parking space on the city block. If the parklet is the first parking space on the city block or a parking area indicated by a traffic sign, care must be taken to ensure that the parklet does not block or even partially cover the visibility of any traffic sign.

Parklet terrace-specific issues: safe demarcation and protection

Concerning the cityscape, the idea is to blend the parklet structure into the street space. The parklet area must be clearly separated from the roadway and the other parking spaces by fixed structures, if necessary. The separation must be discreet and carried out using sufficiently heavy structures in the driving direction and open metal railings strong enough to withstand people leaning against them in the longitudinal direction, for example.

The parklet must have sufficiently strong protection in the driving direction. A collision protection barrier (concrete traffic barrier) weighing over 600 kg is usually considered sufficient. The collision protection barrier must fit inside the leased parklet area with the other parklet structures. The protection must look tidy and match the cityscape. No bare concrete of the element is allowed to be visible. The location of the parklet in the street area affects the collision protection requirements.

The edges of structures at the roadway side of the parklet area must be equipped with reflective material (Class R2 high-intensity), and the other necessary safety equipment must be placed in the area.

The lessee of the parklet area shall take out a liability insurance policy to cover the operation and undertake to maintain it throughout the agreement period.

Building Control Services' permit

You need a permit from the Building Control Services if the terrace or any structure thereof

- Is separated by a fence more than 90 cm high.
- Is fixed to the ground or to a building in connection to the terrace.
- Is covered with a roof, canopy, awning or similar.
- Includes fixed walls.
- Is constructed, due to the inclination of the surface, on a platform with a drop of more than 50 cm at any point.
- Includes a serving station larger than 250 x 150 x 220 cm in size.
- Includes sheds or similar fully or semi-enclosed structures within which customers stay.
- Includes a toilet facility, a stage or similar structure.
- Includes advertisements larger than 60 x 60 cm on each terrace wall or other sales or advertising devices.
- The so-called "dining cabins" that resemble a greenhouse with glass or plastic window panes are considered glazed terraces, so they need a permit from the Building Control Services. "Dining cabins" are only allowed on outdoor terraces during the summer terrace season from 1 April to 31 October.

The following do not require a permit from the Building Control Services:

- parasols and awnings that are not fixed to the ground.
- straight-top pergola awnings with open sides and mounted against the facade
- includes advertisements larger than 60 x 60 cm on each terrace wall or other sales or advertising devices.

The Building Control Services's permit is applied for from the lupapiste.fi service. The processing of the permit is subject to a charge in accordance with the valid building control price list. To apply for the permit, you will need drawings explaining the place of construction and the actions in a definite manner. The drawings must be prepared by a qualified designer and suitable for archiving. The submitted layout and facade drawings must be at the scale of 1:100 and include any fixed furniture, canopies, walls and similar and, if necessary, detail drawings specifying the structures, attachments to the surrounding structures, materials and colours.

The terrace area lease agreement, i.e. an account of the possessory title, must be attached to the application.

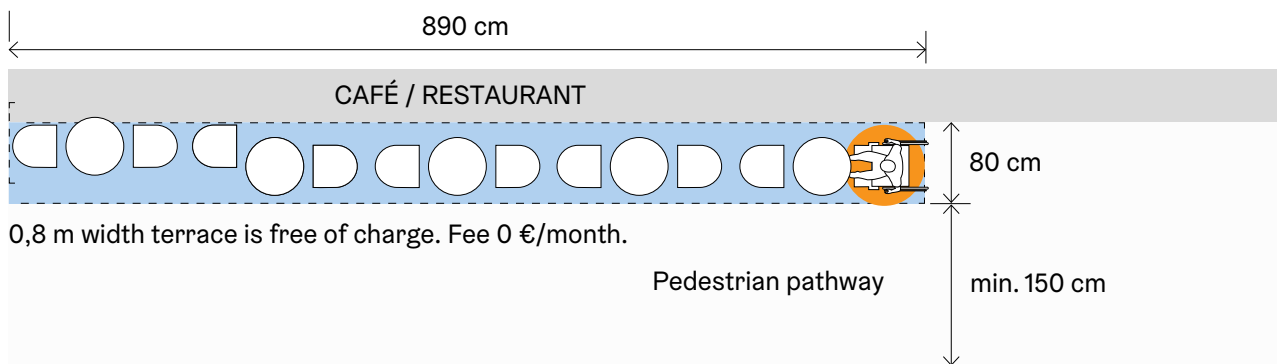
The other required appendices are the same appendices that the applicant must, in any case, have to be able to fill in the terrace application (as described above in these instructions).

Dimensioning examples

Movable/stackable terrace furniture, no fixed structures

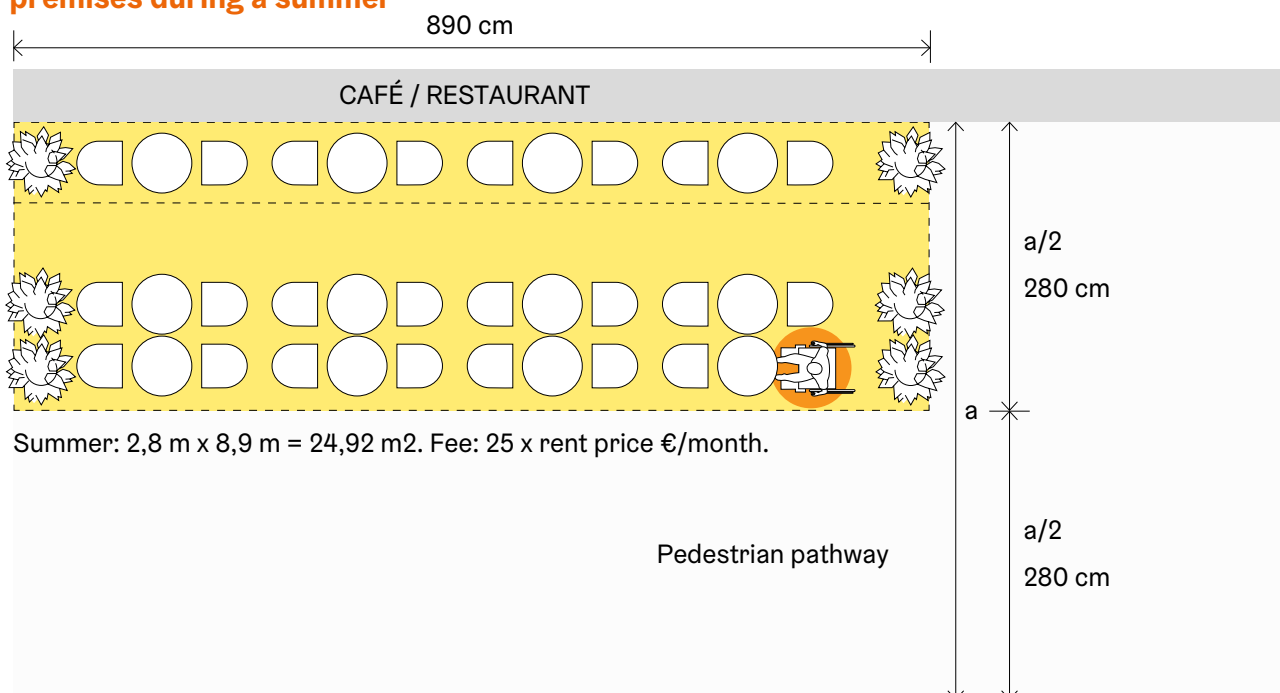
Example 1, mini terrace

Terrace area in front of the business premises all year round



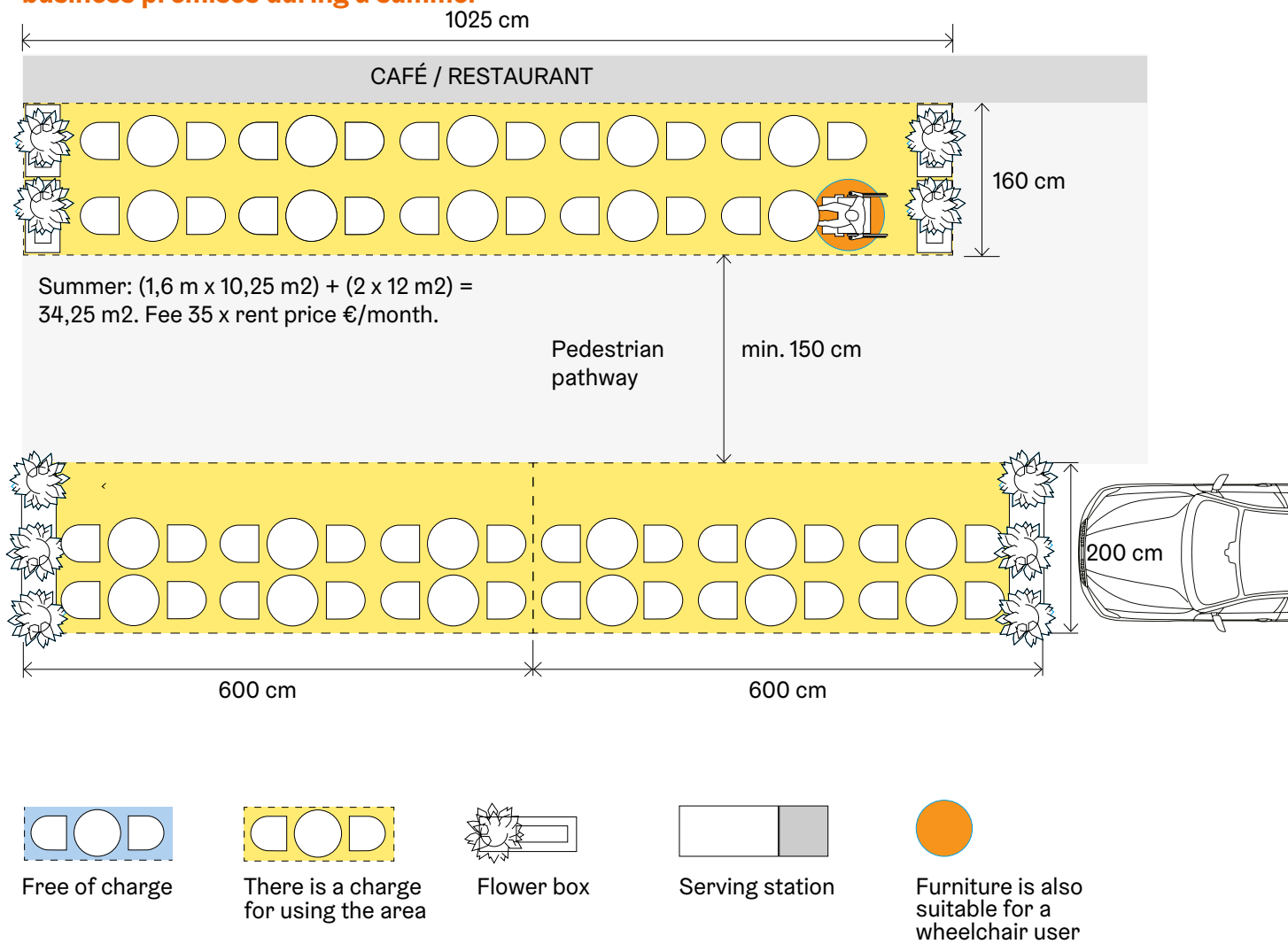
Example 2

Extended terrace area in front of the business premises during a summer



Example 3

Terrace area and parklet in front of the business premises during a summer





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