

Tobacco Retailer Laws: Gilroy

Tobacco Retailers are required to:

Tobacco Retailer Permit

- Get a permit (also known as a license) to sell tobacco products from both:
 1. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration AND
 2. The City of Gilroy

Two permits are required for each retail location. The permit must be renewed each year and displayed at the store.

Tobacco Permit Eligibility

- Permits cannot be issued to a new tobacco retail outlet within 1,000 feet of a school. Existing tobacco retailers are allowed to continue operating in these locations.

Tobacco Sales

- Check ID for anyone who appears to be under the age of 27.
- Post a sign, at EACH register, saying that it's illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under age 21. Free STAKE Act signs are available from the California Department of Public Health: <https://bit.ly/3hiL6Sa>

NOTE: The We Card sign provided by the tobacco industry does not meet the state law requirements.

It is illegal to:

- Sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.

"Tobacco product" includes: cigarettes, cigars, little cigars or cigarillos, smokeless tobacco, hookah, electronic smoking devices with or without nicotine, and any products for use with electronic smoking devices (such as e-liquids with or without nicotine).

- Sell the following flavored tobacco products: e-cigarettes or vapes that deliver nicotine or an other vaporized liquid, e-juice, pods, or cartridges, cigarettes including menthol, little cigars or cigarillos, smokeless tobacco products, blunt wraps, loose-leaf roll-your-own tobacco, tobacco rolling papers, or tobacco product flavor enhancers. Examples of flavors include but are not limited to fruit, mint, menthol, candy, alcohol, and spice. The law does not apply to flavored hookah and shisha, loose leaf pipe tobacco, and premium cigars.¹
- Sell single cigarettes.
- Sell tobacco products through a self-service display (an open display of tobacco products that is accessible to the public without clerk assistance).
- Sell tobacco products through a vending machine.
- Allow clerks under 21 years of age to sell tobacco products.
- Give away free or low-cost cigarettes or smokeless tobacco products, or coupons for such products.

Advertising

- Cover more than 33% of windows and clear doors with advertising signs of any sort, including tobacco. This law applies to retailers who sell alcohol.

Smoking

- Smoke or use electronic smoking devices in retail outlets or within 20 feet of doorways, windows, openings, or vents.

Penalties

Retailers who sell tobacco without a permit/license or who violate any local, state, or federal tobacco control laws are subject to the following penalties:

	1st Violation	2nd Violation within 5 years	Each Additional Violation within 5 years
Selling Tobacco Without a Permit	No permit for 30 days	No permit for 1 year	No permit for 5 years
Selling Tobacco Products to Individuals Under 21 or Violating Other Tobacco Laws	Permit suspension for up to 30 days Fine up to \$1,000	Permit suspension for up to 60 days Fine up to \$2,500	Possible revocation of permit Fine up to \$5,000

Additional Resources

For additional information, please visit www.sccphd.org/tobaccofree or contact the Santa Clara County Tobacco-Free Communities Program at tobaccoprevention@phd.sccgov.org or (408) 885-4456.

References

Gilroy Municipal Code Chapter 13, Article VIII; California Business & Professions Code Divisions 8.5 and 8.6, section 25612.5; California Health & Safety Code section 118950 and 104559.5; California Penal Code sections 308, 308.2, 308.3; United States Code Title 21, sections 321, 387f, 387g; Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Part 1140; 85 Federal Register 23973.

¹ Premium cigars must be handmade; have a tobacco leaf wrapper; have a wholesale price of no less than \$12; not have a filter, tip, or non-tobacco mouthpiece; and be capped by hand. Flavored shisha/hookah tobacco may only be sold in licensed stores that only allow people 21 or older on the premises at any time. Tobacco product flavor enhancers include any product that adds flavoring to a tobacco product, even if the product does not have tobacco or nicotine in it. Loose-leaf pipe tobacco does not include any tobacco product sold and/or used for making cigarettes, including roll-your-own cigarettes.

Fact sheet provided by the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health, Tobacco-Free Communities Program for educational purposes only.

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