SAN FRANCISCO MEDICAL CANNABIS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CULTIVATION BEST PRACTICES IN HOME GARDENS

WELCOME TO MEDICAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION IN SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Medical Cannabis Task Force has drafted this set of best practices and recommendations for the safe cultivation of medical cannabis in home gardens. We have strived to create an approachable, yet comprehensive set of standards, that San Francisco residents can use as a resource in their medical cannabis cultivation endeavors. We have also attempted to avoid imposing any further limitations on a patient's rights to cultivate medicinal cannabis, while offering best practices suggestions in compliance with San Francisco Regulations, California State Law and the California Attorney General's Guidelines.

Disclaimer: Please be aware that compliance with these recommendations does not guarantee protection from Federal, State or Local law enforcement or inspection agents. This document does not contain legal advice and you are highly encouraged to seek independent legal counsel. This document has not been officially endorsed or adopted by the City and County of San Francisco or its legislative policymakers.

GENERAL BEST PRACTICES

Maintain and post valid recommendation(s) for medical cannabis for you and any others working in the garden. Medical cannabis documentation should be posted in a visible place inside the structure near the entry to the garden site. Documents should be posted so as to give notice to law enforcement of the clear intent to cultivate medical cannabis. Supporting documents can include:

- State ID card and/ or valid California Medical Cannabis Recommendation
- Cooperative/ Collective Membership Agreements
- Contact information for legal representatives
- Cultivation Agreement if cultivating for a Cooperative/ Collective
- California Attorney General Guidelines on Medical Cannabis

Article 33 of the SF Health Code (Medical Cannabis Act) authorizes a patient to cultivate up to 24 plants or 25 square feet of canopy space; Patients may possess up to 8 ounces of dried flowers.

Obtain sound legal counsel prior to starting a medical cannabis garden (talk with an attorney with a background in Medical Cannabis).
Focus your cultivation efforts on quality rather than quantity.

Strive to continually educate yourself by learning about cultivation techniques, cannabis history, laws, scientific research, etc.

Remember, there is safety in numbers. San Francisco is proud to host a large community of medical cannabis activists and advocates. Join a local advocacy organization and support medical cannabis rights.

BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, CONSTRUCTION - BEST PRACTICES

All garden site modifications should comply with San Francisco Planning, Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical codes. When in doubt, consult an expert. City issued permits requires landlord notification.

Stealing power and/ or 'jumping the box' is illegal and dangerous.
In any garden where HID lighting is in use, it is recommended that the nursery have a fire notification system such as a smoke alarm, 3rd party fire monitoring service, internet monitoring and/ or cell phone notification system.

Though very few gardens ever experience a fire, there should always be a fire suppression system in place, such as wall-mounted fire extinguishers, ceiling mounted fire extinguishers and/ or sprinkler systems. The garden operator should be familiar with its usage. All equipment should be tested and serviced according to manufacturer recommendations.

By checking the pressure gauge or by weighing the fire extinguisher, a full charge must be confirmed every six months. If a fire extinguisher is even partially discharged, it must be refilled by a qualified technician prior to being put into service again. Every five years a fire extinguisher must be emptied, pressure tested, and refilled.

When using existing wiring, all electrical systems should be inspected by a licensed electrician for safety. If old, existing electrical system is deemed inadequate by a licensed electrician, then a dedicated circuit for the garden should be installed by a licensed electrician.

Continuous electrical load should not exceed 80% of the rated service. The combined load of all devices, cultivation related and otherwise, must not exceed the electrical capacity of the main panel and grounding system. For a 100 Amp service, no more than 80 Amps (or 80%) should be used continuously. No more than (1) 1000W lamp, **or** (2) 600W lamps, **or** (3) 400W lamps may be loaded onto a household 120V, 20-amp circuit. It is recommended that you dedicate a 220v circuit for all lamps.

Continuous current draw reduces wire ampacity and can create electrical failure. A twenty-amp circuit will only support 16 amps of continuous current draw. Auxiliary equipment needs to be placed on a separate circuit, allowing over current conditions from malfunctioning or aging ballasts to be tolerated without hazard to the individual or property.

Most manufacturers' instructions require that a glass lens be installed in fixtures outfitted with a metal halide bulb. Metal halide bulbs require a significantly higher pressure in the arc tube. As a metal halide ages the integrity of the glass tube is compromised, eventually resulting in rupture, delivering hot glass projectiles to the area under the lamp. A glass lens will assist in containing the debris, virtually eliminating the risk of fire. It is recommended that you follow all manufacturers suggested use of protective glass when using metal halide bulbs due to their failure rate and potential hazards caused when they fail. Metal Halide bulbs should be replaced at the manufacturers' suggested bulb life expiration to reduce the likelihood of bulb rupture.

The use of aquarium reservoir heaters is not recommended as they may create a fire hazard. Please use caution. Aquarium water heaters run a high risk of hazard if not used properly. They must be submerged in water at all times. With varying water levels in the reservoir during cleaning, feeding or heavy water consumption, caution must be used at all times.

All electrical devices within six feet of a water reservoir must be plugged into a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) receptacle. This will help protect the user from severe electrical shock. Never place any part of your body into a reservoir that has an electrical device (e.g. pump) or cord in direct contact with the solution.Each of the above lighting combinations should be controlled by a timer with a minimum rating of 15 amps **inductive** or **ballast** load. Timers are commonly rated for 15 amp **resistive** loads, which will **not** permit safe operation of HID lamps. To emphasize, only inductive or ballast rated timers are acceptable.

Ballast servicing should only be conducted by a licensed electrician and/ or a certified technician Improper AC cord choice or internal wiring can result in electrical failure as well as possibly void your warranty. It is recommended that you use the proper UL listed cord for your ballast.

All construction efforts should strive to avoid the accumulation of water, waste, debris or mold. Adequate drainage and ventilation is essential.

Egress should not be blocked; windows and entries should not be boarded over with rigid construction materials.

This is hazardous to fire fighting personnel, emergency responders and inhabitants.

Reservoirs should not exceed the weight capacity for any floor. The fill source for any reservoir should have an automatic shut off system. Maintaining a reservoir on a second story is highly inadvisable.

Water weighs 8.34 pounds per gallon. A full one hundred gallon reservoir weighs more than 800 pounds, about one half the weight of an automobile.

If you plan on using generators, please be aware that most generators require permits to use in San Francisco.

Noise, exhaust, ventilation and fuel storage are all potential issues in their use.

CULTIVATION BEST PRACTICES

Gardens should post Material Safety Data Sheets [MSDS] on site for easy assessment by staff and emergency responders. MSDS sheets list all ingredients, components [organic or otherwise], including pesticides and safety procedures for accidental exposure.

Gardens should be vented so as not to pressurize, resulting in contamination of household air quality. External ventilation ports should be treated with carbon filters or ozone so as to prevent emission of odor, dust, soot, or any other debris that might disturb neighbors or contaminate household air quality.

A monitored alarm security system and surveillance system are strongly encouraged. Construction of vents and penetrations in the building should be consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

If running a closed system, a dehumidifier must be properly rated and drained of waste. At no time should there be stockpiling of debris/materials impeding on entries/exits so as to jeopardize the safety of inhabitants or emergency responders.

All pesticides, fungicides, and dangerous chemicals should be stored in a locked container and kept inaccessible to children and pets.

Following manufacturers' use and storage recommendations prevents accidents. Liquid and solid waste products should be disposed of in accordance with city and state law. Nutrient runoff/waste should never be directed into any storm drain system.

Certain pesticides, fertilizers, and solid wastes can have negative impacts on the environment and human health when not disposed of properly. Up to 30 HID and/or fluorescent bulbs are accepted at Recology SF (Tunnel Ave Disposal Facility) free of charge.

NEIGHBORHOOD CODES OF CONDUCT - BEST PRACTICES

Traffic and usage in, out and around your garden should be consistent with the neighborhood. No loading or unloading during off hours in residential areas. Traffic to and from the garden should be kept to a minimum.

Loud power tools should only be used from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. San Francisco has a 24-hour ordinance that prohibits excessive noise at **any** hour of the day. Low frequency vibrations emanating from fans, pumps, air stones, HVAC equipment, and other devices should be equipped with vibration absorbing controls such as rubber mounting pads and/or

insulation so as to prevent noise from disturbing your neighbor. Low frequency vibrations are easily transmitted long distances through the frames of adjacent houses.

There should be no signs of cultivation from the public right of way, such as cannabis plants in plain sight, light shining out of windows, excessive equipment noise (See SF General Plan; noise standard), waste water spillage, odor, garden debris, or waste. Indoor gardens should be separated from living space by a lockable entry system. Access to exterior gardens should be separated by a fence and gate or other lockable mechanism that would protect children from accidental exposure that could lead to ingestion of mature cannabis flowers or resins.

In conclusion, enjoy yourself and please help minimize the impact on your community by applying good common sense to your actions. By following the recommendations listed above you can show respect for the medical cannabis community, your neighbors and the public servants who protect the citizens of San Francisco every day.