



GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTALLING ROOFTOP GARDENS

Rooftop gardens are becoming more prevalent while promoting a green outdoor space in an urban setting. Roof gardens located on the roof of a commercial or residential building provide much needed green space for people to enjoy while providing an aesthetically pleasing and functional area.

This Information Bulletin establishes guidelines and requirements for occupied rooftop gardens or unoccupied landscaped.

Any rooftop uses shall require a full plan review, permits and inspections for occupants and structural safety based on how the building roof is to be used.

The following shall apply to both occupied and unoccupied rooftop gardens:

- Supplemental irrigation system to maintain levels of hydration. LAMC 57.317.4.1
- Fueled equipment, for maintenance, shall be stored as required by the Los Angeles Fire Code (LAFC). LAMC 57.313
- 42" high minimum guards shall be provided along the edge of the rooftop deck area in compliance with the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC Section 91.1015). The guards shall be included in the height measurement of the building.
- Adequate drainage system shall be provided for planters and roof deck area and maintained to prevent water from ponding.
- Adequate waterproofing of the roof from the planted vegetation and its irrigation is required.
- Provide a minimum 6'-0" wide, non-vegetated Fire Department access around the perimeter edge of the roof. When the planting area reaches 125 feet, provide an intermediate 6'-0" wide access in between the planting area at every 125 feet (see Figure 1). Class A Roofing. LAMC 57.317.3
- Standpipe systems shall be extended to roof levels where rooftop gardens and landscaped roofs are provided (LAMC Section 91.905.3.8).
- Structural evaluation of the roof and supporting members for additional weight and earthquake loads (weight of the saturated green roof) and live load of the occupants shall be performed by a California licensed structural engineer, civil engineer, or architect.
- Appropriate steps shall be taken to prevent loose foliage and other debris from being collected on the roof deck or falling on the adjacent public way.
- A sign shall be posted on each door between the stairway and the roof, indicating the following information:
 1. Maximum design load
 2. Whether the rooftop garden can be occupied or not occupied
 3. If an occupied rooftop garden, the maximum occupant load

- A Maintenance of Building affidavit (PC/STR/Aff.44) shall be recorded by the owner of the building for future maintenance of the following:
 1. Rooftop Garden with non-vegetated perimeter, guardrails and designated activities in open areas,
 2. Dry/dead foliage removed, stored and disposed of to minimize fire hazards (minimum 2 times per year),
 3. Prohibition of planting flammable plant species (see page 3 for samples of LAFD list of flammable plant species),
 4. Irrigation and drainage systems of planters and rooftop area always in working order,
 5. Maximum occupant load for occupied Rooftop Garden areas, and
 6. Usage limitations.
 7. Maintenance of the required posted signage on the door between the stairway and roof.

If the rooftop garden layout is revised, a new building permit and revised affidavit are required.

- Any localized requirements (e.g, Specific Plan, Q condition, etc. shown in ZIMAS) shall be complied with. Check with the designated City Planning staff for requirements for each site.
- The maximum allowable area, occupancy type, and occupant load shall be in accordance with the current Los Angeles Building Code. Roof occupancy open to sky shall not be considered a floor for the purpose of (LAMC) Section 91.403.
- The minimum number of exits shall be provided based on the occupant load of the occupied roof per the Los Angeles Building Code and the Los Angeles Residential Code. Open areas such as lawn shall be considered as an assembly area.
- Provide a minimum 6' wide continuous border all around any combustible vertical structures and equipment on the roof, (LAMC Section 57.317.3.)

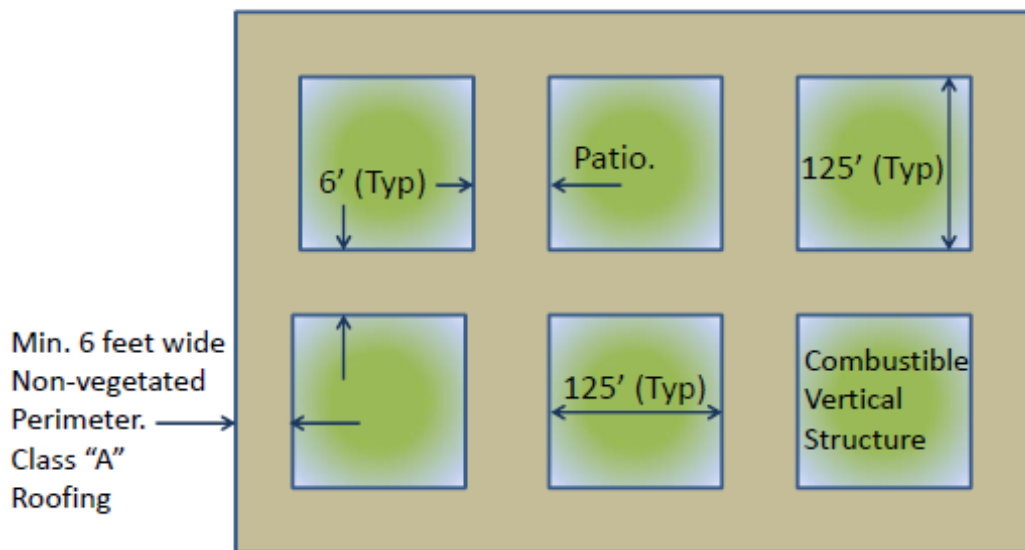


Figure 1 (Roof Plan)

Los Angeles Fire Department List of Flammable Plant Species:

- Acacia (Mimosoideae Acacieae)
- Big Pod Ceanothus (Ceanothus Megacarpus)
- Black Sage (Salvia Mellifera)
- California Buckwheat (Eriogonum Fasciculatum)
- California Sagebrush (Artemisia Californica)
- California Scrub Oak (Quercus Dumosa)
- Cedar (Cedrus)
- Chamise or Greasewood (Adenostoma Fasciculatum)
- Cypress (Cupressaceae)
- Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus Globus)
- Fir (Abies)
- Hoary Leaf Ceanothus (Ceanothus Crassifolius)
- Hollyleaf Redberry (Rhamnus Ilicifolia)
- Juniper (Juniperus)
- Manzanita (Arctostaphylos Densiflora)
- Manzanita (Arctostaphylos Glauca)
- Mountain Mahogany (Ceanothus Betuloides)
- Mule Fat (Baccharis Viminea)
- Pampas Grass (Cortaderia selloana)
- Pine (Pinus Aphremphous)
- Poison Oak (Rhus Diversiloba)
- Purple Sage (Salvia Leucophylla)
- Southern Honeysuckle (Lonicera Johnstonii)
- Spanish Broom (Cytisus Monsepessulanus)
- Sugar Bush (Rhus Ovata)
- Tree Tobacco (Nicotiana Glauca)
- White Sage (Salvia Apiana)
- Conifers
- Palms
- Italian Cypress