

HOW TO GET A DISPENSARY LICENSE IN MAINE – 2025 GUIDE

This guide outlines the application process, licensing types, legal compliance, and technology tools needed to open a successful cannabis dispensary in Maine.



Medical vs. Adult-Use Licensing

1. Medical Dispensaries:

- Regulated under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program (MMCP). Serve certified patients and require strict recordkeeping and security.

2. Adult-Use Dispensaries:

- Regulated under the Adult Use Cannabis Program (AUCP). Serve consumers aged 21+ and must meet state-level safety, testing, and marketing standards.

Types of Cannabis Licenses

1. Conditional License

- Initial stage of licensure
- Requires background checks, fingerprinting, and financial disclosures
- Valid for 1 year and non-renewable

2. Active License

- Issued after meeting facility and compliance requirements
- Requires payment of a license fee (up to \$2,500)
- Valid for 1 year and subject to renewal

Who Can Apply?

- Must be 21 or older
- Must be a resident of Maine
- Certain felony drug convictions
- Revoked licenses
- Conflict of interest (e.g., law enforcement officials)

Steps to Obtain a Dispensary License in Maine

1. Review Eligibility Requirements

- Age, residency, and criminal background checks
- Must submit two years of tax info and any history of cannabis violations

2. Gather Required Documents

- Proof of Maine residency
- Business plan
- Financial statements
- Security & inventory plans
- Zoning and municipal approval

3. Secure a Location

- 1,000 feet from schools
- Outside of designated youth safe zones
- Located in a municipality that has opted into the AUCP

4. Apply for Conditional License

- Submit pre-qualification application
- Upload required documents and pay \$250 application fee
- Schedule fingerprinting via IdentoGO
- Receive decision within 90 days

5. Complete Local Authorization

- Obtain local permits and municipal approval
- Notify OCP within 10 days of authorization

6. Apply for Active License

- Submit updated documents and facility plans
- Pay licensing fee via check or money order
- Await inspection and OCP approval

Post-Licensing Requirements

- Comply with security standards: 24/7 surveillance, alarm systems, secure access
- Install a Metrc-integrated POS system for inventory and sales tracking
- Submit all required state and local tax payments
- Maintain records of financials, inventory, and compliance logs

Compliance with Metrc

- Real-time syncing with Metrc
- Automated compliance reports
- RFID inventory management
- ID verification and purchase limit enforcement

Operational Considerations

- Staffing: Hire and train employees on compliance and product knowledge
- Design & Layout: Create a secure, welcoming space with efficient customer flow
- Inventory Management: Use integrated tools like IndicaOnline to ensure accuracy
- Marketing: Follow strict advertising laws — no ads targeting minors or placed near schools

Issue	Solution
Incomplete municipal approva	Confirm your town has opted in to adult-use licensing
Missed compliance deadlines	Use reminders and automation tools
Metrc discrepancies	Perform regular audits and use RFID syncing
Inadequate security or layout	Follow OCP facility design requirements

Key Takeaways

- Maine offers both medical and adult-use dispensary licenses
- Applications involve conditional licensure, local approval, and final OCP review
- You must comply with Metrc inventory tracking and use an integrated POS
- Local and state compliance are required at every stage of operations
- Tools like IndicaOnline streamline setup, compliance, and growth

Want to Learn More? Click here to [book a call](#).

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