

Have you visited any medical marijuana dispensaries recently? With more and more medical marijuana states becoming legal, medical marijuana dispensaries are popping up across the nation. Read on to learn how to find a dispensary, what you will need to bring, and how the process works.

Before Visiting Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

You will need a prescription for medical marijuana. If your state has legalized recreational marijuana (like Colorado has), you will be able to go to a regular shop or dispensary without a prescription. Medical patients, however, will first need to visit a doctor that can prescribe cannabis as a treatment or medication. After doing so, you need to find medical marijuana dispensaries in your area. 420 apps for smokers, like WeedMaps and Leafly, use your phone's GPS to locate doctors, dispensaries, and delivery services in your area.

First Time Visiting Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Bring your medical marijuana card, certificate, or license. You should also bring a valid form of photo ID, like your driver's license. Some places accept cash only, so you should be sure to bring enough money in cash. The dispensary may have an ATM on site, or they might take cards, but it's always good to bring cash just in case.

You may be tempted to go with a friend the first time, but if you do, it's best to choose someone that already has their license for medical marijuana. Some shops won't let you in without the license, so a non-smoker friend might not even be allowed in the building. Others will let your friend or family member stay in the waiting area while you are shopping. Check your state laws, though, and be sure you only bring guests that are of legal age (usually 18 or 21).

You will likely first meet with a receptionist or admitting personnel who will verify your paperwork and legality. Most medical marijuana licenses have a specific certificate number that they can verify online or by phone. There may be a waiting area that you stay in until they call your name. Some medical marijuana dispensaries limit the number of people that can be in the shop section. This is to ensure good customer service and also limit the chances of someone trying to steal marijuana.

There will be many medical marijuana strains to choose from, including different forms such as flower, pre-rolled joints, wax, edibles, oil cartridges for vape pens, shatter, and more. If you're not sure which to choose, consult a budtender or employee. They are trained to know which strains, including indica and sativa, and which ingestion methods, such as smoking or eating, will help you the most. They might also have accessories to improve your experience. Pipe Wipes are a perfect example of a healthy smoking accessory that a dispensary might carry. Other miscellaneous products such as pipes and lighters may be available as well.

Once you have selected your medical marijuana, it will often be packaged in a prescription bottle and/or discrete paper bag. Then you're good to be on your way and medicating!

After Visiting Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Take your medication home and don't travel with it if possible. If you do take your prescription marijuana out with you, be sure to bring your ID and medical marijuana license or card. If you're traveling by plane, be sure to check in advance to see if your drugs will be confiscated by security. This will depend on the legality of marijuana in your area and wherever you are traveling to. Do not use your medication before driving or operating heavy machinery, and don't share it with friends. Some people like to stock up at the dispensaries and then sell their prescription products. This is not legal, and it threatens the existence of legal medical marijuana dispensaries that legitimately sick people rely on for treatment.

Most medical marijuana dispensaries are listed on apps such as Yelp, WeedMaps, and Leafly. If your experience went well, go online and give them a rating! Some places offer bonuses or special deals for patients that write reviews or recommend them to others. The next time you need to acquire medication, bring your paperwork, ID, and cash with you again. You can always check out other dispensaries and see if they have new member specials, better prices, loyalty cards, etc. Most patients find one or two dispensaries that they prefer and tend to frequent.