

Food Truck Businesses

Updated 06.21.2012

What is a Food Truck?

A Food Truck, or Mobile Retail Food Vendor/Establishment is a readily movable, motorized wheeled vehicle, or a towed wheeled vehicle, designed and equipped to serve food.

Where can I place a Food Truck and what do I need before operating a Food Truck?

	Parked on the street	Parked on private property	As part of a larger public event	Parked in a public park
Allowed?	■	■	■	See page 2
Business License Required?	■	■	■	■
Permit Required?	Permit may be required, see page 2	■ Two exceptions	■	■
Conditions on location and operations	See page 2	See page 3	See www.denvergov.org/artsandvenues	In association with an event (see page 2)

ALL FOOD TRUCKS - Business License

To operate a Food Truck, a business license is required under the class of "Retail Food Establishments, Restaurant Mobile." The Denver Environmental Health Dept. requires that all Food Trucks, or mobile units, operate in conjunction with a commissary kitchen or other licensed kitchen. Commissary shall mean an approved catering establishment, restaurant, or other approved place in which food, containers or supplies are kept, handled, prepared, packaged or stored.

What you need to get approved...

- Pass required inspections:
 - Denver Environmental Health
 - Denver Fire Department (If propane used on truck)
- A completed Affidavit of Commissary form. Applicants need to contract with a local commissary, or may use their own approved commercial kitchen if they have one.
- Zoning use permit for where vehicle will be stored, if in the City and County of Denver.

How to get approved...

- Apply in person at Denver Excise and Licenses
- Submit required documents:
 - Need valid Colorado identification
 - Complete general business questionnaire
- Pay fees:
 - Application fee: \$200.00
 - License fee (per year): \$125.00
- Schedule a licensing inspection with the Denver Department of Environmental Health (DEH). Licensing inspections are conducted between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. every Wednesday.
- Upon completion of a satisfactory inspection, DEH shall approve the affidavit and the applicant shall return the signed documents to Excise and Licenses to receive a license.

More info...

Denver Excise and Licenses
www.denvergov.org/exciseandlicenses
 201 West Colfax Ave
 Room 2.H.9
 Denver, CO 80202

Denver Environmental Health
www.denvergov.org/phi
 201 West 14th Ave
 Suite 200
 Denver, CO 80204

References:

Denver Revised Municipal Code:
 Definitions: Section 23-2 (23)
 Regulations: Section 23-51
 Fees: Section 32-106.5

FOOD TRUCK PARKED ON THE STREET - Department of Public Works

You can park for vending on any street, with the following exceptions:

- Within 20' of an intersection when making a sale or attempting to make a sale
- Any street, alley or public right-of-way within the central business district defined by ordinance (see map below)
- Food Trucks are prohibited from parking within 300' of a public park or parkway unless permission has been granted as part of, or in association with, a festival or contracted event that is permitted by the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation.

What rules apply...

- All parking rules must be followed. For example, you cannot double park or park at a meter without paying the required fee. If a parking meter is bagged for a special event, you can only park there if authorized by the event
- If selling ice cream as more than 10% of the gross income from the food truck, you cannot sell on any arterial street, collector street or laned highway. (See street types at www.denvergov.org/LUTP/FunctionalClassification/tabid/390275/Default.aspx)
- Cannot sell to any person who is standing in the street
- Cannot place anything, including chairs, tables, and signs on a public sidewalk or in the street

More info...

Denver Public Works
www.denvergov.org/publicworks
 201 West Colfax Ave
 Dept. #507
 Denver, CO 80202

References:

Denver Revised Municipal Code
 Chapter 54, Article XII, Section
 54-675

Food Trucks are not allowed in the area below:



FOOD TRUCK IN A PUBLIC PARK - Permit from Denver Parks and Recreation

Food trucks are not allowed within a park or within 300' of a park or parkway unless associated with a festival or special event. If associated with a festival or special event, food trucks must obtain permission from festival or special event organizers and obtain a permit from Denver Parks and Recreation.

More info...

Denver Parks and Recreation
www.denvergov.org/parksandrecreation
 201 West Colfax Ave
 2nd Floor
 Denver, CO 80202

FOOD TRUCK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY - Zoning Permit from Denver Development Services

Zoning allows licensed Food Trucks as summarized below:

If operating for more than 30 minutes at a location...

Where they are allowed...

- All S-CC, S-MX, E-RX, E-CC, E-MX, C-MX, Industrial and OS-B zone districts (www.denvergov.org/zoning).
- Allowed in all Downtown zone districts except Golden Triangle, Arapahoe Square and Civic zone districts (D-GT, D-AS, D-CV)
- Not allowed in Residential zone districts

What you need to get approved...

- A zoning permit is required. The use type is "Retail Food Establishment, Mobile"

What rules apply...

- Hours:
 - May only operate up to 4 consecutive hours each day per zone lot
 - May operate between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. only
- Location:
 - Operations are prohibited on undeveloped zone lots and zone lots with unoccupied structures or unpaved surfaces.
 - Only 1 allowed per zone lot
 - Must be 200' from any eating and drinking establishment
 - Must be 200' from any other food truck
 - Must be at least 50' from any Residential zone district
- Other siting, signage and waste disposal standards apply

How to get approved...

- Apply in person
- Pay fees:
 - Permit (good for 1 year): \$50
 - Annual renewal: \$50

If a special event, such as a group of food trucks at one location...

Where they are allowed...

- Most zone districts (www.denvergov.org/zoning)

What you need to get approved...

- Zoning permit is required. The use type is "Bazaar, Carnival, Circus or Special Event"

What rules apply...

- Days:
 - Max of 12 consecutive days
 - At least 90 days between events at same location
- Hours: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- If in a Residential zone district, must be a nonprofit or governmental entity only

How to get approved...

- Apply in person
- Pay fees:
 - Permit: \$10 per event

If operating for less than 30 minutes at a location...

Where they are allowed...

- All zone districts

What you need to get approved...

- No zoning permit is required

If providing catering services, and no general sales to the public, as part of a private party...

Where they are allowed...

- Allowed as an accessory use in all zone districts

What you need to get approved...

- No zoning permit is required

More info...

Denver Development Services
 Email: development.services@denvergov.org
 201 West Colfax Ave
 Dept. #203
 Denver, CO 80202

References:

Denver Zoning Code
www.denvergov.org/zoning
 Article 11, Section 11.11.14, Retail Food Establishment, Mobile
 Definition: Article 13, Section 13.3