

Food Truck Businesses

2.10.2011

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 locate a Food Truck and what do I need before operating a Food Truck?

	Parked on the street	Parked on private property	Parked in a public park	As part of a larger public event
Allowed?	■	■	■	■
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 page 4	See www.denvergov.org/doc

ALL FOOD TRUCKS - Business License

To operate a Food Truck, a business license is required under the class of "Retail Food Establishments, Restaurant Mobile." Environmental Health 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:
 - Environmental Health
 - Fire (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 Excise and License
- 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 Department of Environmental Health. Licensing inspections are conducted between 9 am - 11 am 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...

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

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 ON PRIVATE PROPERTY - Zoning Permit from 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...

- 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 am and 9 pm 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 am to 11 pm
- 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...

- Current zoning interpretation allows Food Trucks as a temporary use in all zone districts

What you need to get approved...

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

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

FOOD TRUCK IN A PUBLIC PARK - Vending Permit from Department of Parks and Recreation

Based on availability, vending is allowed in certain public parks at certain locations. (See <http://denvergov.org/parksandrecreation/Permits/Vending/tabid/430329/Default.aspx>)

What you need to get approved...

A Temporary Vending Permit

- Signed "Request for Certificate of Taxes Due"
- Copy of current insurance policy or certificate of insurance for:
 - Vehicle insurance for cart
 - General Liability Insurance
 - Minimum coverage: \$1,000,000
 - Additionally insured: The City and County of Denver, its officers, officials and employees
- Copy of current Business Sales License
- Complete menu, including pricing information
- Photograph or detailed drawing of vehicle
- Completed Application

How to get approved...

- Apply in person at the Parks and Recreation Permitting Office
- Pay Fees:
 - Application Fee: \$25.00
(non-refundable)
 - Monthly Permit: \$200.00
 - One Day Only Permit: \$100.00
 - Late Fee: \$15.00

More info...

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