

Food Truck Businesses (Updated March 2017)

What is a Food Truck?

A food truck 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? | Yes | Yes | See pages 2 & 3 | See page 2 |
| Business License Required? | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Permit Required? | Permit may be required, see page 2 | Yes, with exceptions, see page 3 | No, see pages 2 & 3 | See page 2 |
| Conditions on location and operations | See page 2 | See page 3 | See page 2 and www.artsandvenues.denver.com | Only in association with an event or special occasion (see page 2) |

ALL FOOD TRUCKS - Business License

To operate a Food Truck, a business license is required under the class of "Retail Food Mobile." The Denver Department of Environmental Health (DEH) 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. Per the Denver Fire Department (DFD), food trucks cannot park within 10' of another food truck or a structure.

How to get a "Retail Food Mobile" license

- Complete the Mobile Plan Review (including Affidavit of Commissary) from the Food Safety section of www.denvergov.org/phi and email to phicomments@denvergov.org
- Once approved, a physical inspection with DEH and DFD will be scheduled
- Prior to attending the physical inspection, complete Excise & Licenses' paperwork (available from www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-business-licensing-center/business-licenses/retail-food-mobile-license.html)
 - General Questionnaire
 - Affidavit of Lawful Presence
 - Secure and Verifiable Identification
- Bring paperwork and fees to Excise & Licenses to attain a record number
 - Application fee: \$200
 - License fee (annual): \$125
- Bring Affidavit of Commissary and record number to the physical inspection
- Inspections occur at the Denver Animal Shelter (1241 W. Bayaud Ave.)
- Return to Excise & Licenses with approved documents to get license
- Note: DFD may require additional permits

More info...

Dept. of Environmental Health (DEH)
200 W. 14th Ave., Suite 200
Ph: 303-913-1311
www.denvergov.org/phi

Denver Fire Department (DFD)
745 W. Colfax Ave.
Ph: 720-913-7434
www.denvergov.org/fire

Excise and Licenses
201 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 206
Ph: 720-865-2740
www.denvergov.org/businesslicensing

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:

- Not within 20' of an intersection when making a sale or attempting to make a sale
- Not on 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/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/706/documents/street-classification-map-2017.pdf.)
- 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 - Denver Parks and Recreation

Food trucks are not allowed within a park or within 300' of a park or parkway unless associated with a public event or special occasion. If associated with a public event or special occasion, food trucks must obtain permission from organizers.

More info...

Denver Parks and Recreation
www.denvergov.org/permits
 201 West Colfax Ave.
 Dept 1.G.1 (1st Floor)
 Denver, CO 80202
 Ph: 720-913-0700

FOOD TRUCK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY - Zoning Permit from Community Planning & Development

If operating for more than 30 minutes at a location (*zoning permit needed*)...

Where they are allowed...

- All S-CC, S-MX, E-RX, E-CC, E-MX, C-MX, industrial and OS-B zone districts (Zone district descriptions at www.denvergov.org/zoning.)
- 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...

- An application for a zoning use permit. The use type is "Retail Food Establishment, Mobile."
- A site plan

What rules apply...

- May only operate up to 4 consecutive hours each day per zone lot, and only between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Operations are prohibited on undeveloped zone lots and zone lots with unoccupied structures or unpaved surfaces.
- Only 1 food truck 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 (as listed in Section 11.11.14 of the Denver Zoning Code at www.denvergov.org/zoning).

How to get approved...

- Email application and site plan to zoningreview@denvergov.org
- Or apply in person (use the "Log In" line at the permit counter)
- Pay fees:
 - Permit (good for 1 year): \$50
 - Annual renewal: \$50

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

Where they are allowed...

- Most zone districts

What you need to get approved...

- No zoning permit is required for the food truck, if the special event has obtained a zoning use permit. The use type for the event is "Bazaar, Carnival, Circus or Special Event."

What rules apply to the event...

- A max of 12 consecutive days, and at least 90 days between events at the same location
- Hours: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- If in a residential zone district, the event sponsor must be a nonprofit or governmental entity.

How to get approved...

- Email application and site plan to zoningreview@denvergov.org
- Or apply in person (use the "Log In" line at the permit counter)
- 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

More info...

Denver Community Planning & Development
www.denvergov.org/DS
 201 West Colfax Ave., 2nd floor
 Denver, CO 80202

References:

Denver Zoning Code:
 Article 11, Section 11.11.14, Retail Food Establishment, Mobile
 Definition: Article 13, Section 13.3

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

Where they are allowed...

- All zone districts

What you need to get approved...

- No zoning permit is required