

MOBILE VENDING FAQs

FOOD TRUCKS, CARTS AND VENDORS

The City of Orlando allows for designated food trucks on qualifying properties once per week- different from Orange County which allows one food truck per commercial property on all days of the week. The City's policies are geared toward special events for multiple trucks. Pre-approval is required for City of Orlando properties prior to obtaining a Business Tax Receipt.

1. Does your location fall inside the City of Orlando?

- Search your address using the [Orlando Locator](#).
- Your address will show your jurisdiction as "Orlando" or "Unincorporated Orange County"
- If located in Unincorporated Orange County, contact Orange County Business Tax Services at 407.836.5650
- If located in City of Orlando, proceed with guidance in this document

2. Where to conduct business?

- Once locations have been chosen, a Vendor must acquire permission from the property owner of each
- The City's Main Street Areas: desired site; notarized permission from the property owner is required on the application or a separate letter

3. What is the charge for the applications?

- The City of Orlando charges \$50 per letter, which can include multiple locations
- Each time a Vendor applies for a new letter for additional locations, the fee applies

4. What will the City look for at each location?

- Paved parking
- Parking for customers of existing uses
- Excess parking for the food truck use and customers

For more information regarding Mobile Food Vending, please contact:

Planner on Call

407.246.2269, ext. 1

cityplanning@cityoforlando.net

5. Which areas prohibit mobile food vending?

- We cannot approve vending along International Drive or Semoran Boulevard; there are special zoning overlays that prohibit vendors
- The City prohibits the selling food or merchandise on city streets and sidewalks (Sec. 54.27).
- The City prohibits sales of food and drink within public parks, recreation areas and facilities, except under concession agreement approved by the city council; these are requested at the City's discretion
- The City prohibits vending, services and sales of goods on any public or private street, public parking lot or public property
- Special events with an 18A permit approved by the Police Department may include food vendors ancillary to events

6. Where does the City allow Food Trucks?

- Churches and schools (those in residential areas are limited to host vendors/food trucks twice per year).
 - Audubon Park
 - College Park
 - SoDo District
 - Ivanhoe Village
 - Mills 50
 - Thornton Park
 - Church Street District
 - Curry Ford West
 - The Milk District
 - Gateway Orando
- Regional shopping centers:
 - Colonial plaza Fashion
 - Square Millenia
 - Premium Outlets
 - Festival Bay Malls

- Downtown Development Board, outside of the downtown core (see map).



7. What is the process to apply?

- Must own a food truck, cart, etc. If you do not own and have licensed a food truck or cart, we cannot consider your application.
- Depending on the food sold, you must acquire a food safety license from the following state agency:

Prepared foods: Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Hotels and Restaurants (DBPR) - 850.487.1395

Prepackaged, cottage (over \$15k gross sales), and fresh foods: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - 850.245.5520

- A copy of your license is required for the city permit.
- Complete a Determination for Mobile Food Vendor Application with property owners' signatures (signatures must be notarized; and may be provided on a separate form).
- The City Planning Division will write a letter in response to approve or deny the request, based on these guidelines and relevant City policies.
- Complete a Mobile Peddler's License/Business Tax Receipt Application with the City's Permitting Division on the first floor of City Hall—take a copy of your approval letter (above).
- Finally, obtain a Business Tax Receipt from Orange County (201 S. Rosalind Ave, 2nd Floor)

8. What are the general operation requirements for Mobile Food Vendors?

- Located on paved parking area.
- May not damage required landscaping.
- Must be setback from adjacent residential districts a minimum of 40 ft. without a bufferwall, and minimum 15 ft. with a bufferwall.
- May not be located within 5 ft. of any right-of-way or public sidewalk.
- May not disrupt vehicular or pedestrian circulation for ingress and egress to the property.
- May not locate or block access to required parking for a simultaneously operating business on the property according to City's parking requirements.
- Must comply with all regulations in the LDC, such as signage and setbacks.
- Food Trucks, Lunch Trucks, and Food Carts shall not sell alcohol unless specifically approved as part of an 18A special event permit or other permit approved by the Police Department, and must comply with LDC restrictions for the sale of alcohol near school and churches.



9. What maintenance is required?

- All operations must be contained within the approved vending vehicle, as permitted by DBPR. Also permitted are two coolers for beverages external to the vending vehicle.
- Vendor is responsible for proper disposal of trash and waste, providing trash and recycling receptacles to customers.
- Non-Styrofoam packaging and cups must be used for serving containers.
- Liquid waste or grease may not be disposed of in tree wells, storm drains, or onto the sidewalks, streets, or other public space.
- Vendor shall comply with all state laws for servicing the vehicle or cart for waste water and grease disposal, including commissary requirements.
- If at any time the State revokes, suspends or expires the issued food vending permit, the City's approval for the vendor is simultaneously revoked/suspended.

10. Where will cities approve mobile vending of goods and other services?

- Mobile vending is similar to a flea market, which are only allowed on properties that are zoned for "intensive retailing" uses. Call the Planner on Call for more details if a site is legally zoned for this use.
- A Planning Official Determination process is similarly required to pre-approve sites for sales of goods and services (mobile hair salons, clothing sales, etc.).

11. Where can a Vendor have an ice cream truck?

- Ice cream is a prepackaged food vendor and must comply with the requirements for mobile food vending (i.e. they are not allowed to sell on streets and sidewalks).