

Farmers Market Food FAQs

***How do I know if I need a permit?**

If you are providing consumables to the public at a Certified Farmers Market, then you need a permit. Click [here](#) for Farmers Market permit descriptions.

Farmers Market Permit exceptions are:

Vendors with prepackaged (closed), non-Time/temperature Control for Safety foods,
Raw agricultural products (whole, uncut fruits and vegetables), or
Cottage Food Law vendors (see below)

***What is difference between a Class A, Class B and Class C Permit?**

- Class A: Vendors may only provide or sell pre-packaged food items.
- Class B: Vendors may sell pre-packaged food items, provide samples and dispense bulk food.
 - *All Employees/Volunteers must complete a state certified food handler training course.*
- Class C: Vendors may sell pre-packaged food items, provide samples, dispense bulk food and prepare food onsite.
 - At least on staff member must be a Certified Food Manager.
 - *All other employees/volunteers must complete a state certified food handler training course.*

***Do I need to have an agreement with a Central Preparation Facility (CPF)?**

Yes, it is city ordinance that all permitted Farmers Market vendors have a Central Preparation Facility agreement. A CPF agreement must be on file with the City of Austin during the entire duration of the Farmers Market permit. Any changes in CPF providers must be reported to the Environmental Health Services Division immediately.

***Do I fall under the Cottage Food Law?**

In order to qualify as a cottage food law vendor, you must be in compliance with the entirety of the law, including labeling requirements and no open sampling. Click [here](#) for the Cottage Food Law FAQs.

***What's the cost of a permit?**

Please refer to this [link](#) to review the fees for all Environmental Health Services fees.

***I only have drinks, do I need a permit?**

Yes. The Texas Food Establishment rules define any beverage as food.

***What do I need to apply?**

A completed Farmers Market permit application, an agreement with a *registered* Central Preparation Facility, and current & valid government identification card along with any applicable fees. Click [here](#) for the application.

***How long is a permit valid?**

A Farmers Market permit is valid for one year.

***Where do I get a permit?**

You may obtain a permit application online [here](#) or at 1520 Rutherford Lane Monday through Friday from 7:45am – 3:30pm. Turn in the completed application with payment at least 10 days before your first market day. The business owner on the application will be notified once the permit is available for pickup at 1520 Rutherford Lane.