

Mobile Vending Food FAQs

***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. After the application has been approved, then the physical permitting inspections for mobile vending units are by walk-in basis on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:45am – 11am at 1520 Rutherford Lane. The permit will be immediately attached to the mobile unit once the physical permitting inspection is passed.

***What is difference between a Restricted Permit and an Unrestricted Permit?**

- Restricted: Vendors may only provide or sell pre-packaged food items.
 - All food preparation must occur in a permitted fixed food establishment.
- Unrestricted: Vendors may conduct full food preparation including cooking, cooling, cold holding, hot holding and re-heating of food items.

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

Yes, it is a State requirement that all mobile vending units, without exception, have a Central Preparation Facility agreement. A CPF agreement must be on file with the City of Austin during the entire duration of the mobile vending permit. All changes in CPF providers must be reported to Environmental Health Services Division immediately.

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

The total cost to permit a mobile unit includes an application fee, mobile permit fee and may include a fire inspection depending on the equipment used in the unit. Please refer to this [link](#) to review the fees for all Environmental Health Services fees.

***Will I need an Austin Fire Department (AFD) Inspection?**

If you have propane or propane accessories on your mobile vending unit inside the City of Austin, then you will need an AFD inspection. Click [here](#) for the AFD guidance document.

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

If you are providing consumables to the public from a wheeled unit (including but not limited to an ice chest, vehicle, bike, pushcart, and trailer) then you need a permit.

***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 mobile vending permit application, a mobile vending unit, an agreement with a registered Central Preparation Facility, Texas Sales Tax id, and current & valid government identification card along with any applicable fees. [Click here for the application.](#)

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

A mobile food unit permit is valid for one year from the date of a passed permitting inspection by the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department Environmental Health Services Division.