JOPLIN
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department
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Requirements for Mobile Food Establishments

Mobile food establishments can sell or dispense food anytime, all year long and are routinely inspected by the health department. Before preparing or dispensing food all licenses, permits, and inspections from other city departments must be obtained.

- Meets the definition of a Mobile Food Establishment: a food establishment selling, offering for sale, or dispensing food for human consumption from any vehicle or a readily movable unit with wheels.
- Conforms to other applicable City of Joplin ordinances and codes.
- All city permits and licenses must be obtained before food is prepared or dispensed.
- Mobile food vehicle reports daily to an approved commissary* for servicing.
    - If the commissary is inside City limits, it must meet all applicable standards and have an active permit with the Joplin Health Department
    - If the commissary is outside City limits, the operator must show proof the commissary has a valid license or permit, and has a current, passing inspection with their regulating authority.
    - If the operator does not own the commissary, a written contract must be provided allowing the use of the commissary.
- Food prep must take place within the vehicle or commissary.
- The vehicle must:
    - Provide enclosed walls, floors, ceilings, service windows, and doors.
    - Be fully contained and readily movable.
    - Provide smooth cleanable surfaces for walls, floors, and ceilings.
    - Provide insect control resistant service windows, such as screens, air curtains or other effective means.
    - Hot and cold pressurized water to a dedicated hand sink and a 3-compartment sink
    - Fresh water tank and oversized gray water holding tank.
    - Mechanical hot and cold holding
    - A way to keep food temperature protected by mechanical means during transport.
    - Able to operate under own power, such as a generator, gas supply, propane tanks, as needed.
    - Provide shielded or shatter resistant lights.
    - Provide mechanical ventilation over cooking equipment. Note that a fire suppression system may be required by the Fire Department.

This is not an all-inclusive list. The types of foods served, and the conditions found on each individual vehicle will determine additional requirements. All criteria set forth for a mobile food establishment is obtained from the Joplin Food Sanitation Ordinance derived from the 2009 FDA Model Food Code.

*Commissary means an approved Food Establishment to which a Mobile Food Establishment or transportation vehicle returns to daily for servicing of vehicles and equipment, including the storage and preparation of food.

We encourage you to contact us prior the purchase of a mobile food truck or trailer. We are available for courtesy inspections and reviews. Please call to discuss further or with any questions.