



Mobile Food Units



Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding food trucks and trailers (mobile food units).

MOBILE FOOD UNITS:



What is a mobile food unit?

A “mobile food unit” is a self-contained food service operation, located in a motorized, wheeled or towed vehicle that is readily movable without disassembly. These units store, prepare, display or serve food intended for individual portion service.

Where can I place a mobile food unit?

A mobile food unit may only be operated in the following locations and is subject to the following restrictions:

- In a private commercial or industrial parking lot with the written permission of the property owner;
- On private residential property with the written permission of the property owner and only for catering purposes associated with an event (such as a private graduation party or wedding). Sales to the general public are not allowed;
- On a city parking lot or public park with a mobile food unit permit from the city; or
- On a city street that is closed to public travel for a special event in accordance with Crystal City Code, section 805, and with a mobile food unit permit from the city.

Do these units need a permit?

A permit is required only if the mobile food unit will be located in a city-owned lot or park, or on a street that has been closed by the city for a public event. For permitting information, visit bit.ly/30P2Mhs.

What if a mobile food unit is located in a privately-owned parking lot?

No city permit is required when it is located in a privately-owned lot; however, the mobile food unit must comply with the performance standards in City Code Section 1345.07 – see page back of this handout.

Are there hours-of-operation limitations?

Operations are prohibited between 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. if within 200 feet of a residential building, or between 11 p.m. – 6 a.m. in any other location.

Who do I contact regarding food safety or other health-related complaints?

The City of Crystal does not regulate food safety. It would duplicate the work of Hennepin County Public Health, which is responsible for licensing and inspecting mobile food units and responding to food safety complaints.



Who should I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions, contact Code Enforcement Manager Jason Zimmermann at 763-531-1143 or jason.zimmermann@crystalmn.gov.

HENNEPIN COUNTY CONTACT:

Hennepin County Public Health

612-543-5200

epi-envhlth@hennepin.us

www.hennepin.us/business/licenses-permits/food-beverage-lodging

CITY CODE

Section 1345 – Mobile food units

1345.01. Definition. For the purposes of this section, “mobile food unit” means a self-contained food service operation, located in a motorized wheeled or towed vehicle that is readily movable without disassembly and that is used to store, prepare, display, or serve food intended for individual portion service. The term includes a mobile food unit as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 157.15, subdivision 9.

1345.03. Locations. A mobile food unit may only be operated in the following locations and subject to the following restrictions:

(a) In a private commercial or industrial parking lot with the written permission of the property owner;

(b) On private residential property with the written permission of the property owner and only for catering purposes associated with an event (such as a private graduation party or wedding) occurring on the property. Sales to the general public are not allowed;

(c) On a city parking lot or public park with a mobile food unit permit from the city; or

(d) On a city street that is closed to public travel for a special event in accordance with Crystal city code, section 805 and with a mobile food unit permit from the city.

1345.05. Permit. A mobile food unit permit required by this section shall be obtained from the city prior to the operation of the mobile food unit. The applicant shall submit a complete application and pay the permit fee established by the city. The permit shall indicate when it expires and may contain specific restrictions and requirements the applicant must comply with in operating mobile food unit.

1345.07. Performance standards. The operation of a mobile food unit shall comply with all of the following standards and requirements:

(a) A mobile food unit operating as part of an event on private property or a special event on public property permitted by the city shall be removed from the property within 30 minutes from the conclusion of the event. If the mobile food unit is within a street, it shall be removed prior to the street being reopened to public travel;

(b) No mobile food unit shall operate between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. if located within 200 feet of a residential building. In all other locations, no mobile food unit shall operate between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. The mobile food unit permit may establish specific hours of operation for a mobile food unit. The owner of the property on which a mobile food unit is being operated may impose more restrictive hours than is otherwise allowed under this Crystal city code;

(c) A mobile food unit shall dispose of its gray water daily. Gray water may not be drained into a city storm water drain or a city sanitary sewer manhole;

(d) A mobile food unit shall not exceed a bumper to bumper length of 30 feet;

(e) A mobile food unit shall provide an independent power supply;

(f) Propane tanks shall be attached or secured to the mobile food unit and shall be adequately ventilated; and

(g) The owner or operator of a mobile food unit shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances, and obtain all licenses, permits, and permission that may be required.