

# Permit Information for Food Vendors



4. What are the types of foods that I would be able to sell from a cart?
  - a. Whole, uncut produce (e.g. fruits, vegetables, etc.)
  - b. Steamed or boiled hot dogs
  - c. Steamed or boiled tamales in original, inedible wrapper.
  - d. Prepackaged ice cream.
5. Can I store a cart at home? All carts MUST be stored at an approved kitchen. Contact Environmental Health to obtain more information regarding kitchens or a list of approved kitchens.
6. Are wooden pushcarts allowed? Wooden pushcarts are not permitted for food sales in Contra Costa County.



7. What type of cart do I need? All carts must be constructed to meet National Sanitation Foundation International Standard 59 or equivalent sanitation standards from a nationally recognized testing organization. To obtain more information, contact National Sanitation Foundation at 800-673-6275 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)

Contra Costa County  
Environmental Health

925-692-2500

<http://cchealth.org/groups/eh>

City of Richmond

Business license — 510-620-6742

West Contra Costa Workforce Development Center

Alex Gomez, Director, email: [alex@wccbd.org](mailto:alex@wccbd.org)

510-223-9900



Food and beverages sold to the public from unpermitted vendors can make consumers ill. The food provided can't be guaranteed to be safe, unadulterated and free of contamination. Restaurants and other regulated food facilities are routinely inspected by Contra Costa Environmental Health Division and are required by law to be knowledgeable in food safety procedures designed to protect people from becoming ill. Unpermitted food vendors are not only illegal but also pose a real danger to the customers. Environmental Health is especially concerned with the illegal vendors around local schools that sell to children who are a greater risk of becoming sick.



3. How can I obtain a health permit?
  - a. Information on how to obtain an application and applicable fees may be obtained by calling Environmental Health at 925- 692-2500 or downloaded from the website at <http://cchealth.org/groups/eh>.
  - b. Submit completed Mobile Food Facility Application and fees to Environmental Health.
  - c. Complete the evaluation process. This includes, but is not limited to, a site evaluation for an approved kitchen, plan check review and onsite inspection.



### *Frequently Asked Questions:*

1. Why are food carts confiscated? Selling food from a cart without a health permit violates the California Retail Food Code. Food obtained from unapproved sources can cause illness and injury when not properly prepared and protected from contamination.
2. Can I get my cart permitted so that I can operate legally? Call Environmental Health at 925-692-2500 and talk to the Environmental Health Specialist for the vehicle program, who can assist you through the process. Translation services are available upon request.

