



How to Open a MEHKO

Are you interested in opening a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO)? This handout will guide you through the Contra Costa Environmental Health permitting process.

STEP 1: LEARN

What is a MEHKO?

- ☐ Small-scale, home-based restaurant – excludes catering and cottage food operations
- ☐ Same day food preparation and service
- ☐ Direct sale to consumers
- ☐ Maximum 30 meals per day, with no more than 90 meals per week
- ☐ Maximum \$100,000 gross annual sales
- ☐ Can be used as commissary for food carts

STEP 2: APPLY

- ☐ Complete the MEHKO health application permit
- ☐ Complete the MEHKO standard operation procedures form
- ☐ Pay the application and health permit fee
- ☐ Prepare for the permitting inspection

STEP 3: OPERATE

- ☐ Obtain valid Food Safety Manager Certification and Food Handler Cards
- ☐ Renew health permit annually
- ☐ Review food safety information
- ☐ Be a good neighbor! Find tips on our website

