



Mobile Food Vendor Licensing Law: Educational Highlights and Tips to Help Understand the Regulations

Do you sell or offer to sell food in a public place like a street or sidewalk?

About the Mobile Food Vendor License Law:

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) issues six (6) types of Food Vending Permits. Five are Biennial (require renewal every two years). One is Annual (requires renewal every year). Permits are:

1. **Citywide (full-term) (Biennial):** Permit holders can vend year-round on public streets in every borough.
 - There is also a Citywide permit Reserved for Disabled Veteran/Disabled Person/Non-disabled Veteran.
2. **Borough-Specific (excluding Manhattan) (Biennial):** Permit holders can vend year-round on public streets in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, or Staten Island.
3. **Fruit & Vegetable (Green Cart) (Borough-Specific) (Biennial):** Permit holders can vend whole fresh fruits, vegetables, water, and raw single ingredient nuts only year-round on public streets in every borough but are limited to operating in designated police precincts.
4. **Restricted Area Citywide (Biennial):** Permit holders can vend on private property or on property under the jurisdiction of NYC Parks. Vending on private property requires a lease from the property owner.
5. **Specialized (Reserved for Disabled Veterans and Their Survivors/Spouses) (Biennial):** Permit holders can vend year-round but are limited to operating around an NYC Park.
6. **Seasonal (Citywide only) (Annual):** Permit holders can vend on public streets in every borough from April 1 to October 31.

Note: For more information about these permits, visit nyc.gov/health

For your convenience, each category below includes the relevant section of law and/or rule, so you can refer to it for more information. The KEY below describes the legal citations and symbols used in this document.

This document does not apply to mobile food vendors who operate in any NYC Park.

KEY	
NYC Code:	NYC Administrative Code
RCNY:	Rules of the City of New York
§:	Section
§§:	Sections

Licenses	
1	<p>You must have a valid Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Mobile Food Vendor license.</p> <p>Tip: Selling, leasing, or offering to sell or lease goods or services, excluding food, in a public place requires a General Vendor license from the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP, formerly Consumer Affairs).</p> <p>Tip: Selling merchandise at an authorized Street Fair (e.g., street fair, block party, or festival) requires a Temporary Street Fair Vendor Permit from DCWP.</p> <p>NYC Code §17-307(a)(1)</p>
2	<p>Your pushcart or vehicle must have a valid DOHMH Mobile Food Vendor permit.</p> <p>NYC Code §17-307(b)(1)</p>
3	<p>You must wear your DOHMH Mobile Food Vendor license so it is visible to the public and enforcement officers at all times.</p> <p>NYC Code §17-311(b)</p>



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4	<p>The Mobile Food Vendor permit decal and letter grade must be on the pushcart or vehicle and visible to the public and enforcement officers at all times.</p> <p>Tip: The permit does not need to be in the vendor’s name.</p>
NYC Code §17-311(c)	
5	<p>You must have a Specialized vendor permit to vend on the sidewalk outside of a park.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(i)	
6	<p>Restricted Area permit holders cannot vend in a public area.</p>
NYC Code §17-307(b)(1)	
Green Cart Permit Holders	
7	<p>You can only sell fresh fruits and vegetables, water, or raw single ingredient nuts.</p>
NYC Code §17-307(b)(1)(c)	
8	<p>You can only operate in the borough and police precinct on your permit decal.</p>
NYC Code §17-311(d)	
Location	
Area restricted to vending with limited exceptions	
9	<p>You cannot vend in the “World Trade Center Zone” below (including the border streets) in Manhattan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East border: eastern side of Broadway • South border: south side of Liberty Street • West border: west side of West Street • North border: south side of Barclay Street <p><i>Exceptions:</i></p> <p>Mobile Food Vendors can vend on the following streets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadway between Barclay Street and Vesey Street • East side of West Street between Barclay Street and Vesey Street • South side of Barclay Street between Church Street and Broadway
NYC Code §17-315(k)(1)	
Area restricted to vending with no exceptions	
10	<p>You cannot vend in the areas below in Manhattan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenwich Street between Liberty Street and Thames Street • East side of West Broadway between Barclay Street and Park Place • Liberty Street between Trinity Place and West Street • East side of West Street between Liberty Street and Cedar Street • West side of Trinity Place between Liberty Street and Thames Street
NYC Code §17-315(k)(1)	
11	<p>You cannot vend within 20 feet of sidewalk cafés and stoop line stands.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(d)	
12	<p>You cannot vend within 10 feet of any crosswalks at an intersection, subway entrances and exits, or driveways.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(e)	



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13	<p>You cannot vend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within a bus stop or taxi stand or on the sidewalk next to a “no standing” zone that is next to a hospital • on a median unless the median is a pedestrian mall or plaza (has space for pedestrians to walk)
NYC Code §§17-315(e), 17-315(h)	
Placement and Display	
14	<p>You can only operate from a pushcart or vehicle.</p>
NYC Code §17-307(b)(1)	
15	<p>You must leave at least a 12-foot-wide clear path on the sidewalk for pedestrians.</p> <p>Tip: The distance is measured from the property line to any sidewalk obstructions (e.g., bike racks, fire hydrants, street signs) or, if there are no obstructions, to the curb.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(a)	
16	<p>Your pushcart must be located next to the curb.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(a)	
17	<p>Your pushcart, vehicle, the goods you are selling, and any other items related to your vending cannot touch any buildings or structures (e.g., lampposts, parking meters, mailboxes, traffic signal posts, fire hydrants, tree boxes, benches, bus shelters, trash bins, or traffic barriers).</p>
NYC Code §17-315(b)	
18	<p>You can only use the space immediately below your pushcart or vehicle to store items for sale.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(c)	
19	<p>Your pushcart must be at least 20 feet from the entrance or exit of any building.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(d)	
20	<p>You must have something above your pushcart to protect the food and equipment from contamination.</p> <p>Tip: You can use a retractable umbrella.</p>
24 RCNY §6-04(o)	
21	<p>The longest side of your pushcart or vehicle must be parallel to and next to the curb.</p>
24 RCNY §6-06(a)	
Other	
22	<p>If your pushcart or vehicle is in the roadway (e.g., in parking spaces), you must follow all traffic and parking laws.</p>
NYC Code §17-315(f)	
23	<p>You cannot operate in a metered parking spot.</p>
34 RCNY §4-08(h)(7)	



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Price Posting	
24	For all items offered for sale, you must show the price, exclusive of tax, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the individual item by a stamp, tag, or label. OR • On a sign that is plainly visible where the item is displayed.
	NYC Code §20-708
Littering	
25	You cannot put trash on the street.
	NYC Code §16-118
26	You cannot throw trash in the public trash can.
	NYC Health Code, 24 RCNY Art. 89.25(a)
27	No liquid, trash, or food can spill from your pushcart or vehicle.
	NYC Health Code, 24 RCNY Art. 89.25(c)

For more information: **Visit** nyc.gov/BusinessToolbox | **Contact 311** (212) NEW-YORK (Outside NYC)

This document is provided for informational purposes only, is not exhaustive, and does not constitute legal advice. New York City businesses must comply with all relevant federal, State, and City laws and rules. Businesses are responsible for knowing and complying with current regulations that affect their business.