

Starting a Food Truck in Charlotte

In order to **legally operate a food truck**, you must:

- Obtain general liability insurance
- Secure a commissary kitchen
- Obtain an inspection and a Mobile Food Unit permit from the Mecklenburg County Health Dept.
 - [Application for Health Permit](#)
 - [Additional Health Department Information](#)

These steps will allow you to operate **on PRIVATE property** with written permission from the property owner. **Food trucks cannot operate in the public right of way** (streets, sidewalks, plazas) in the City limits nor in the Center City, South End or West End unless operating as part of a special event with closed streets. This is strictly enforced.

In order to be added to the Center City Partners **database of food trucks** and receive info about events and locations seeking trucks, email proof of the three items above, plus:

- Description of the menu served
- Photo of the truck
- Complete contact info for the owner/operator
- Certificate of insurance listing Charlotte Center City Partners as additionally insured.
- Health Department Certificate
- Any sustainable/ environmentally friendly practices you implement.
- Dimensions of vending unit

Email these items to:

lcoon@charlottecentercity.org

The City operates a **pilot program wherein trucks can apply to park in designated spots on the streets** in the Center City. To be eligible for this program, a truck must:

- Be a self-propelled truck – NO TOWED TRAILERS ARE ELIGIBLE
- Have all items listed above
- Secure vehicle liability insurance
- Complete an application packet from CDOT
- Food truck can not be longer than 18 feet (must fit inside one parking space)

When a truck successfully completes the application packet for the on-street program, the owner will be notified that s/he is eligible to purchase permits and go into the on-street rotation.