

# What you need to know about Selling and serving food



**A state license is required to distribute food/non-alcoholic drinks — even if you're giving it away for free**

MN Statute 157.16,  
City code Sec 345.02

Restaurants, booths, and food trucks selling or giving away prepared food require a license from the Minnesota Department of Health **(651-201-4500)** and/or Department of Agriculture **(651-201-6081)**, depending on the types of products distributed, location(s) operated, and type of food truck.

*These cost of these licenses ranges from \$90-\$290  
Be specific when applying to ensure you have the right license for your needs!*

## Food trucks

- Trucks parked on a public street must observe all parking restrictions and can only operate adjacent to parcels where outdoor commercial uses are permitted.
- DSI Zoning **(651-266-8989)** review is required for food trucks to operate on private property and permits are required to operate on Parks and Recreation property **(651-266-6400)**.

**Operating from sidewalks, streets, alleyways, roads, etc, requires a Right-of-Way permit from Public Works (651-266-6151) and if the activity is on parkland a permit from Parks and Recreation is necessary (651-266-6400).**

Help keep traffic moving — your operation cannot block or obstruct the general public's use

## Operating from private property?

- Get specific written permission from the commercial property owner. Then, provide DSI Zoning **(651-266-8989)** a business plan describing what you plan to sell and a site plan showing the layout in respect to property lines. Include anything you need to do business, such as a trailer, tent, tables, etc.
- Residential businesses are regulated by DSI Zoning, Home Occupation Requirements **(651-266-8989)** and shall not operate as:
  - A general retail or wholesale business (for example: a house set up as a convenience store)
  - A commercial food service requiring a license such as selling food out of your home kitchen or yard.

Sec 280.05,  
Sec 65.525

**Questions or comments?** Visit the DSI website by scanning the QR code, or call the City's general information line at 651-266-8989.



**SAINT PAUL**  
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

Department of Safety and Inspections  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806  
Main: 651-266-8989

# What you need to know about Being a vendor in Saint Paul

**Peddler licenses** are required for persons to conduct sales of new retail items, event tickets, candy, bottled water and soft drinks in the public right-of-way (roadways, sidewalks and boulevards).

Sec 345.06

Peddlers **must** display their City of Saint Paul-provided license badge while operating. Questions on application, fees, and requirements? Call DSI Licensing at **651-266-9103**.

Sec 293.02

Peddling is **not** permitted...

Sec 345.08 a-f

- Within 100 ft of the entrance of an entertainment venue **within 3 hours of an event**
- Within 25 ft of the sidewalk corner at an intersection of two streets
- Within 2000 ft of a Block Party/Community Festival permit area **unless** you have written permission of the organizers
- A park or on any Parks and Recreation property **unless** you have permission from the Parks and Recreation Director
- At the state capitol complex buildings and grounds

Sec 280.05,  
Sec 65.525

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  - A general retail or wholesale business (such as a house set up as a convenience store)
  - A commercial food service requiring a license (selling food out of your home kitchen)

Sec 65.614-616

Sec 106.1, 1, 2

## Operating from a sidewalk, street or alley?

- An **obstruction permit from Public Works** is required whenever an object or equipment is placed on streets, boulevards, sidewalks, alleyways, or anywhere the public uses to travel.
- It's your responsibility to keep the rest of the sidewalk clear for the general public's use.

To get this permit, call the City of Saint Paul Public Works, Right of Way office at **651-266-6151**.

## Need assistance planning an event?

Depending on the size and nature of your event, you may need approval from multiple departments, agencies, and property owners. Some approvals must be applied for at least 60 days out — plan ahead!

Any use of amplified sound outdoors, from concerts to megaphones and stereos, requires a Sound Level Variance (**651-266-8989**). Rule of thumb — anything that would drown out a conversation 50 feet away means you must apply for a variance.

Check our webpage (scan code) or call **651-266-8989** for more info.

