



Thank you for contacting the Joplin Health Department about your mobile food (food truck) questions. There are two basic categories of food vendors in Joplin that can sell food from a mobile vehicle. Full-time mobile food that can sell anytime and temporary food vendors that can only sell at special events.

Before vending food, all full-time mobile food vehicles must be inspected by the health department, the fire department and planning & zoning department. Please submit a set of plans (hand drawn plans are acceptable) and a proposed menu to each department. A predevelopment meeting may also be required. All permits must be obtained from the Joplin finance department after passing all inspections.

Health department requirements for full-time mobile food establishments\*:

- Health permit and any other city permits or licenses must be obtained before food is sold.
- Mobile food vehicle must report to an approved commissary daily for servicing, food prep and cleaning.
- The commissary must be an inspected facility and must have a written contract for use if the commissary is not owned by the full-time mobile food operator.
- The vehicle is fully enclosed with walls, floors and ceilings with service windows and doors. Food prep must take place, with exception to the commissary, within the vehicle.
- Smooth cleanable surfaces for walls, floors and ceilings.
- Dedicated handsink with hot and cold water under pressure, hand soap and towels.
- Commercial grade equipment.
- Protection to control insects at service windows, such as screens, air curtains or other effective means.
- Hot and cold pressurized water to a hand sink and a 3-compartment sink.
- Oversized gray water holding tank.
- Mechanical hot and cold holding.
- Ensure a way to keep food temperature protected by mechanical means during transport.
- Shielded lights.
- Mechanical ventilation may be required to remove heat and vapors. The Joplin Fire Dept. may require a fire suppression system be installed in the ventilation hood.
- Must conform to any other applicable City of Joplin ordinances and Codes.

\*Note this is not an all-inclusive list. The types of foods served and the conditions found on each individual truck will determine additional requirements. Contact the health department for more requirements at 417-624-6122. All criteria set forth for a mobile food establishment is obtained from the Joplin Food Sanitation Ordinance derived from the 2009 FDA Model Food Code.  
(<https://www.joplinmo.org/DocumentCenter/View/2994>).

We encourage you to contact us prior the purchase of a mobile food vehicle. We are available for a courtesy inspection and review. Please call to discuss further or with any questions.

Health Department: Ryan Talken	417-623-6122
Fire Department: Dale Brooks	417-624-0820 ext. 307
Planning & Zoning Department: Edward Whitmore	417-624-0820 ext. 511
Finance Department: Rachel Olsen	417-624-0820 ext. 242