<https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/>

[Home](https://tpchd.org/) » [Healthy Places](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/) » [Food Safety](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/) » [Food Safety Inspection Rating](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/) » **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Inspection Ratings**

**Inspections**

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[Can places pay for another inspection to improve their rating?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

No. We base a food safety rating on the last 4 routine inspections to show how it has done over time.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[Do rating signs include the most recent inspection?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

Yes. We update the food safety rating sign after each routine inspection. The date on the sign is the date of the last routine inspection.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[How often are food establishments inspected?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

We inspect food establishments 1 to 4 times a year. The amount depends on the complexity of their food preparation. We inspect most restaurants 3 times a year.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[If a place ‘needs to improve,’ how do we find out what areas need improvement?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

We inspect food establishments 1 to 4 times a year. The amount depends on the complexity of their food preparation. We inspect most restaurants 3 times a year.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[What are food safety ratings based on?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

We base ratings on red critical violation points from the last 4 routine inspections. Red critical violations include improper handwashing and temperature control. They have a direct link to foodborne illness.

* Great —135 or fewer red critical point.
* Okay—136-299 red critical points.
* Needs to Improve—300 or more red critical points.

**Signs**

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[Are signs available in different languages?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

We designed signs to be easy to understand without reading. You can translate inspection results into a variety of languages on our [website](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/restaurant-inspections/).

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[How were these signs developed?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

We designed signs to be easy to understand without reading. You can translate inspection results into a variety of languages on our [website](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/restaurant-inspections/).

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[Is posting signs voluntary?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

No. Food establishments must post signs starting February 1, 2022.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[What happens if a place takes down or changes their sign?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

No. Food establishments must post signs starting February 1, 2022.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[When will businesses post signs?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

Food establishments must post signs starting February 1, 2022.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[Where will businesses post signs?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

Food establishments must post signs at entrances and drive thru windows. Inspectors will help find another location to post if the entrance door doesn't work.

[a](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)

**[Will new businesses get signs?](https://tpchd.org/healthy-places/food-safety/inspection-rating/faq/)**

New food establishments will get a sign stating that they are new and have not received a food safety rating yet. They will get a food safety rating after their second routine inspection.

**Questions?**

Contact us at (253)649-1417 or [food@tpchd.org](mailto:food@tpchd.org).