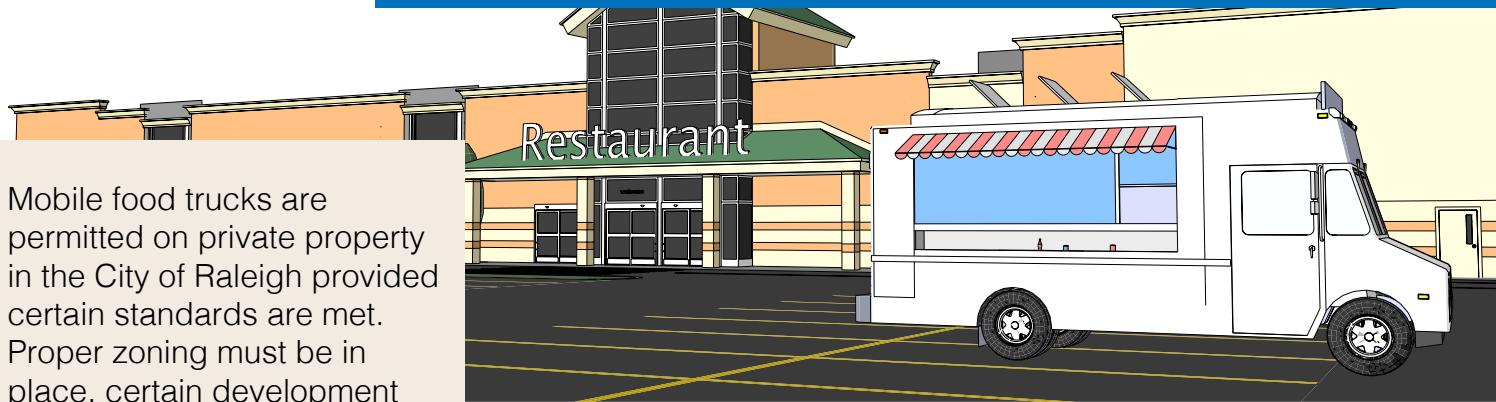




# Department of City Planning

February 2016

## Food Truck - Quick Reference Guide



Mobile food trucks are permitted on private property in the City of Raleigh provided certain standards are met. Proper zoning must be in place, certain development standards must be met, and appropriate permits must be issued. This is a user-friendly guide to assist in explaining the permitting process and regulatory framework around the use of food trucks. For a complete process description, please go to [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov) and use the key word search "Food Trucks".

### Food Truck Description

A food truck is a licensed, motorized vehicle or mobile food unit which is temporarily stored on a privately-owned lot where food items are sold to the general public. Food trucks are permitted in several zoning districts:

**Office Mixed Use (OX)**

**Office Park (OP)**

**Neighborhood Mixed Use (NX)**

**Commercial Mixed Use (CX)**

**Downtown Mixed Use (DX)**

**Industrial Mixed Use (IX)**

**Heavy Industrial (IH)**

**Campus (CMP)**

Exception: Food trucks are allowed within the entirety of the Downtown Overlay District.

To locate on a property in one of these zoning districts, the property must have a primary use. An example of a primary use would be a building with an active use, or an improved stand-alone parking lot. An unimproved grass or dirt lot is not a primary use. Food trucks may only serve from the right-of-way in one of four identified locations as part of a separate permitting process. The only exception to this is when the City Council has approved a temporary street closing for a city-sponsored or neighborhood event.

### Required Permits:

**1. Zoning Permit:** Provide specific information regarding the location of the food truck. The completed zoning permit must be signed by the property owner, and submitted along with a plot plan. If a property owner has a property large enough to accommodate more than one food truck, only one zoning permit is required to be submitted showing the location of all food trucks.

**2. Food Truck Permit:** Allows operation of food truck in the city. Food truck permits must be submitted

with a N.C. sales and use certificate, a Wake County vending permit, a copy of vehicle or trailer registration, and proof of grease disposal facility.

Copies of food truck permit, the zoning permit and plot plan for all sites of which the food truck has received owner approval for vending must be kept on the food truck at all times. Each of these permits must be renewed annually on July 1st.

### Maximum Number of Trucks per Property:

- Maximum of 2 food trucks on lots of one-half acre or less.
- Maximum of 3 food trucks on lots between one-half acre and 1 acre.
- Maximum of 4 food trucks on lots greater than 1 acre.
- Outdoor seating associated with a food truck is only permitted on lots at least two acres in size or greater.

## Food Truck Locations:

- 100 feet from the front door of any restaurant and/or outdoor dining area
- 50 feet from any permitted mobile food vending cart location
- 15 feet from any fire hydrant
- 5 feet away from any driveway, sidewalk, utility box or vault, handicapped ramp, building entrance or exit or emergency call box.

## Parking of Food Trucks:

The approved location for the parking of food trucks, as shown on the zoning permit, must be physically marked. The food truck parking space can be marked with paint, tape or any other easily identifiable material. Food trucks may not be parked in an approved location after hours of operation. (See below)

## Hours of Operation:

- 6 a.m. to 3 a.m. for food trucks in commercial locations
- 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. for food trucks located within 150' of a residential dwelling

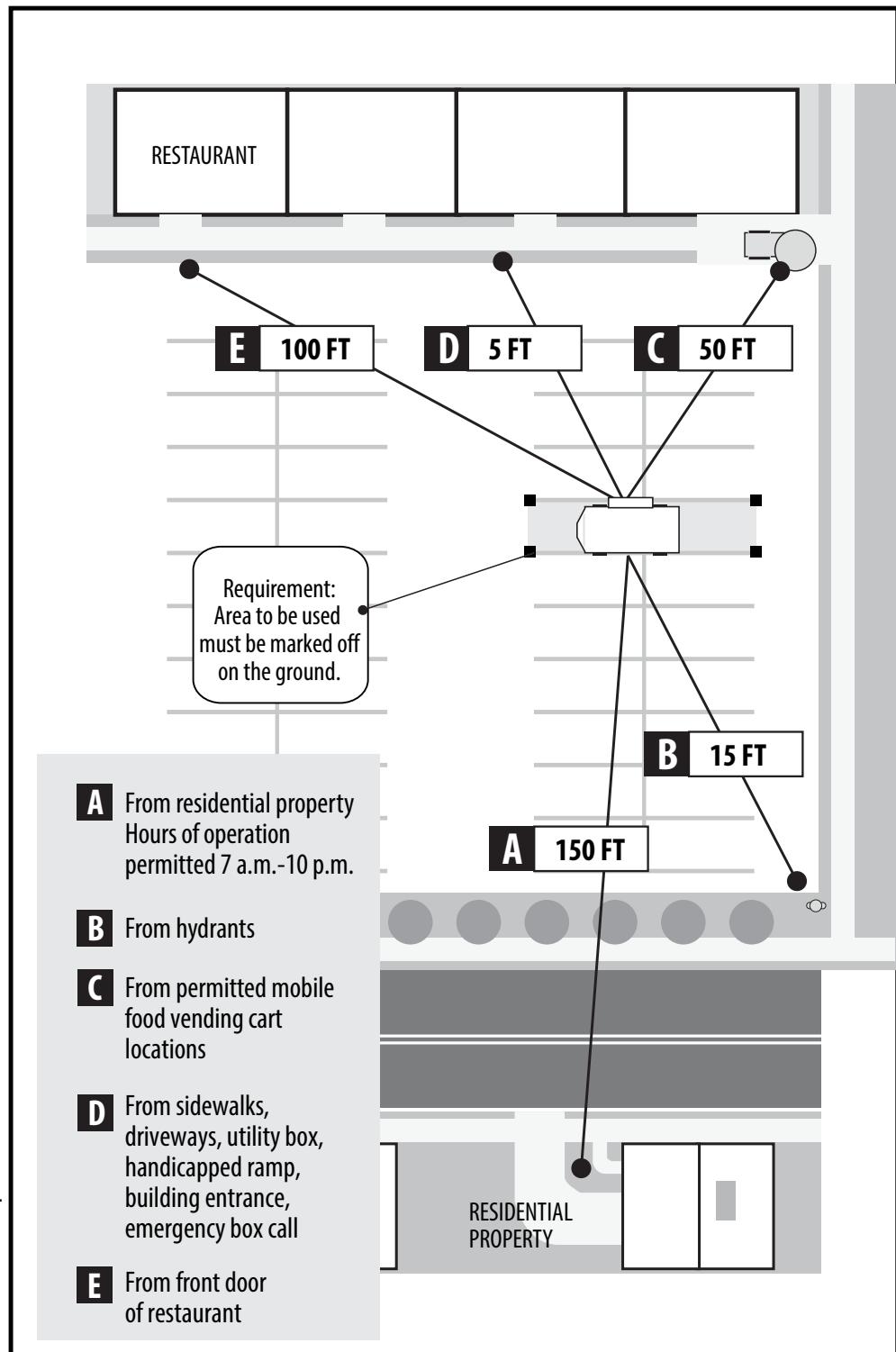
## Prohibitions:

- No audio amplification
- No free standing signage
- City trash receptacles may not be used to dispose trash or waste
- All areas within 5 feet of the food truck must be kept clean
- Grease and liquid waste may not be disposed in tree pits, storm drains, the sanitary sewer system, or public streets.
- Food trucks are all subject to the citywide noise ordinance. Sound absorbing devices may be used to contain or deflect the noise from external generators.

## Violation of Zoning Ordinance:

If at any time evidence is provided that the lot is being used other than in compliance with these regulations, the zoning permit will be rendered null and void, and the owner cited for the violation.

If at any time, Wake County revokes or suspends the issued food vending permit, the city permit for the food truck business will be revoked or suspended simultaneously.



## Contact Information

Permit Issuance - City of Raleigh Development Services Department 919-996-2495  
Wake County Vending Permit - Wake County 919-856-5999  
North Carolina Sales Tax - North Carolina Revenue Department 1-877-252-3052  
Zoning Enforcement - City of Raleigh 919-278-6209



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