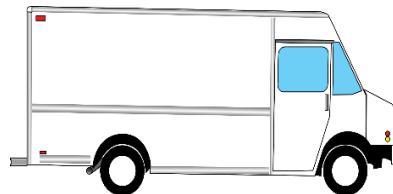


Food Truck, Hot Dog Cart and Commissary Information

Thank you for contacting Wake County Environmental Services about starting a food truck (mobile food unit) or a hot dog cart (pushcart) business.

Recommendation: We recommend you submit plans and receive approval before building or buying. This step may save you money by avoiding having to do work over.

In North Carolina food trucks and hot dog carts are very different but both sell food and are mobile. Below is a chart that compares them side by side.



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Question	Food Truck (Mobile Food Unit)	Hot Dog Cart (Push Cart)
How do they move?	Self-Propelled	Pulled behind vehicle
What do they prepare and sell?	Variety of foods	ONLY Hot Dogs and commercially precooked sausage
Size of menu?	Limited depending on size/equipment	Items above, condiments, chips, canned drinks
Average cost?	Average \$35,000 - \$150,000	Average \$700 - \$4,000
How big are they?	Average 16 ft long to 23 ft long	Average 4 ft wide by 4 ft long
**Commissary required?	YES	YES
Equipment required?	NC Food Code 4-1 and 4-2 (ANSI sanitation certified meets this requirement)	NC Food Code 4-1 and 4-2 (ANSI sanitation certified meets this requirement)
Can I prepare food at home?	NO	NO
Can I operate in other NC counties?	YES, but you are required to notify the local health dept prior to set up	YES, but you are required to notify the local health dept prior to set up
Is a hand sink required?	YES	NO, but recommended
Is a utensil sink required?	YES	NO

****A commissary** is a food establishment that serves as the base of operation for a food truck or hot dog cart. The following activities occur at the commissary:

- The food truck/hot dog cart is required to visit the commissary every day of operation for servicing, cleaning, and supplies.
- Washing/cutting/marinating of meats, produce, and vegetables
- Cooking and cooling of foods
- Storage of food, dry goods, and paper goods
- Onload of water and offload of wastewater

Wake County does not provide a list of commissaries. A commissary can be found by searching the Internet. Please keep in mind that restaurants and other permitted food establishments such as delis, catering facilities, etc. can serve as a commissary if they meet certain criteria and are approved through this Department.