



Division of Environmental Health

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FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT WINERIES & BREWERIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOES MY WINERY/BREWERY NEED A FACILITY PERMIT?

Please read through the options below to determine if your winery/brewery needs to obtain a permit from the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health (DEH).

NO, if you...

- do not exceed 25 sq. ft. of non-perishable, pre-packaged food items and crackers/pretzels that are served to accompany beer or wine. The California Retail Food Code (CalCode) exempts this small level of food distribution.

YES, if you...

- exceed 25 sq. ft. of pre-packaged food (perishable and non-perishable food allowed) to be sold or served at your winery or brewery. The proposed area must meet all CalCode construction and equipment standards and be verified by an approved DEH plan check. Examples of allowable foods include: pre-packaged foods like cheese, sandwiches, meat, salads, and bottled beverages. All foods must come from an approved source, such as a permitted food distributor, permitted market, or a cottage food operator.
- are a Host Facility for caterers. Your establishment must meet all construction and equipment standards of the CalCode and be verified by an approved DEH plan check.
- are a winery/brewery with a DEH plan check approved commercial kitchen for full food-preparation installed.

CAN CUSTOMERS BRING THEIR OWN FOOD OR HAVE FOOD DELIVERED FROM A PERMITTED RESTAURANT?

YES

With your permission, customers can bring in prepared food for their own consumption or order food and have it delivered to them at your location (such as pizza).

CAN I SELL COTTAGE FOOD AT MY WINERY OR BREWERY?

YES

Permitted cottage food operators produce pre-packaged, non-perishable foods that can be sold at wineries and breweries. A DEH Permitted Cottage Food Operator is required.

ARE TEMPORARY FOOD VENDORS OR CATERERS ALLOWED TO SELL FOOD OUTSIDE MY WINERY/BREWERY?

TEMPORARY FOOD VENDORS are allowed to operate at permitted community events on the winery/brewery's property in conjunction with a Temporary Event coordinator. A community event is defined as an event that is of civic, political, public, or educational nature as approved by DEH. Please check with the County or City Building and Planning Department for any additional permits, zoning requirements, or code ordinances for events.

CATERING OPERATIONS that meet the requirements to operate at permitted Host Facilities are allowed to serve food directly to tasting room customers for up to 4 hours in a 12-hour period. All catering dishes and equipment shall be properly washed and stored at the catering commissary.

ARE MOBILE FOOD FACILITIES ALLOWED TO SELL FOOD OUTSIDE MY WINERY OR BREWERY?

YES

Mobile food facilities (food trucks or carts) that are permitted by DEH are allowed to operate outside during your operational hours or as allowed by local zoning and code ordinances. The mobile unit must display a current DEH permit. Vendors operating the unit must have access to a commercial restroom during the time period they operate.

CALL OR E-MAIL WITH ANY QUESTIONS

For more information regarding options to serve food at your location, please contact our offices during normal business hours by phone at (707) 445-6215 or by e-mail at envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us.