



City of Tigard

Mobile Food Carts on Private Property

This handout describes where mobile food carts are allowed on **private property** in Tigard based on current city policy. Food carts on public property (e.g. sidewalks, streets, parks, etc.) are subject to different rules.

FOOD CART DESIGN

A mobile food cart must meet the Oregon Revised Statute definition for a **trailer** or **vehicle**.¹

A cart meets one of these definitions if it is designed and licensed to be driven under its own power or pulled by another vehicle on a public road. The following design requirements also apply:

- The cart must have wheels and the wheels must not be removed.
- The cart must not require any plumbing or electrical connections that require permits.
- Any canopies, awnings, or other attachments on the cart must be entirely supported by the cart and not touch the ground.
- If needed, one pop-up, fabric-covered canopy is allowed per food cart. Canopy must:
 - Border or adjoin the food cart.
 - Be under 144 square feet in size.
 - Have a fabric cover that is free of text / advertisement.
 - Be fully collapsed outside of business hours.

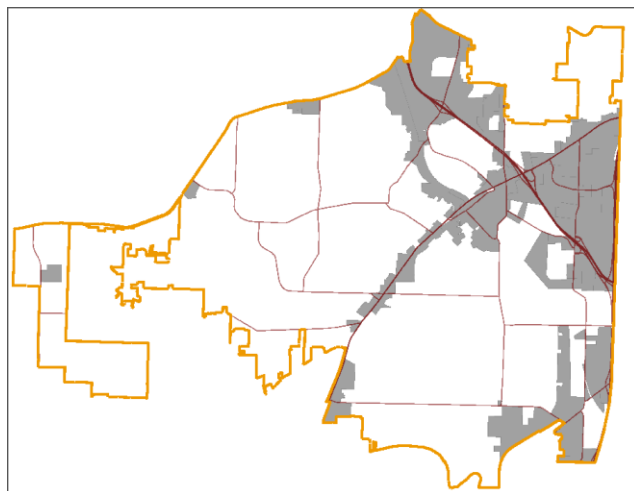
A cart that meets the design requirements described above shall be considered a vehicle, and not a structure, for development review and permitting purposes. A cart that does not meet all of these requirements shall be considered a structure and is subject to all applicable land use approvals, design reviews, and permits.

FOOD CART LOCATION²

A mobile food cart must meet the Tigard definition for an **eating establishment**³ and may be located on any property that is zoned to allow this use.⁴ See map inset.

Food carts may be located on any of the properties shaded in grey. A more detailed zoning map can be found here:

http://www.tigardmaps.com/MapGalleryPDFs/d_planning/a_zoning/zoning1117.pdf



¹ See Oregon Revised Statute Sections [801.560](#) and [801.590](#) for definitions.

² More than one food cart per property is allowed provided each one meets the design and location requirements.

³ See Tigard Community Development Code (TCDC) [Subsection 18.60.060.F](#) for definition.

⁴ Eating establishments are allowed as primary, accessory or limited uses in the following zones: C-C, C-G, C-P, MU-CBD, MUE, MUC, MUC-1, MUE-1, MUE-2, MUR-1, MUR-2 and I-P.

FOOD CART LOCATION (continued)

The following location requirements also apply:

- The cart must be located on a paved surface.
- The cart must be located on a property with an existing building (vacant or occupied) or an existing use so that the existence of the cart does not create a de facto standalone parking lot.
- The cart must meet the minimum setback standards of the zone in which it is located.
- The cart must not obstruct or otherwise make unsafe any areas designed for pedestrian or vehicle movement to, from, or through the property on which the cart is located.
- If the cart is located in a required parking space(s) for any existing use, a replacement space that meets the city's parking standards must be provided for each space used.⁵

FOOD CART SIGNAGE

A mobile food cart may have signage subject to the city's sign regulations.⁶ Some signs require permits. A sign permit application can be obtained from the Tigard Permit Center at 13125 SW Hall Blvd. Application and general permit information can also be found here: https://www.tigard-or.gov/city_hall/online_permit_counter.php. Signs in the public right-of-way, such as on public sidewalks and landscape strips, may be allowed in some locations.

FOOD CART APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Determine that your cart meets the design and location requirements as described in this handout.

Contact the Tigard Planner on Duty at tigardplanneronduty@tigard-or.gov or 503-718-2421 for assistance.

2. Obtain a Washington County Health License to operate your food cart in Tigard.

Contact Washington County Department of Health and Human Services at 503-846-8722 for assistance or visit their webpage on mobile food units, i.e. food carts, at: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/EnvironmentalHealth/FoodSafety/Business/mobile-food-units.cfm>.

3. Obtain a Tigard Business License to operate your food cart in Tigard.

Obtain a business license application from Tigard City Hall at 13125 SW Hall Blvd. Application and general license information can also be found here: <https://www.tigard-or.gov/business-development/economic-development/resources-for-businesses/business-license>

Questions? Contact the Planner on Duty, at TigardPlanneronduty@tigard-or.gov or 503-718-2421 for more information.

⁵ See TCDC [Chapter 18.410](#) for parking information.

⁶ See TCDC [Chapter 18.435](#) for sign information.