

Special Events Food Establishment Permitting Checklist

Washoe County Health District (WCHD) Environmental Health Services (EHS) authorizes health permits for food establishment operators at special events throughout Washoe County and regulates the safe operation of food establishments through the inspection process. WCHD EHS and Special Event Food Establishment operators both share the same goal: to ensure that the food served in Washoe County is wholesome and safe.

In Washoe County, a Special Event Food Establishment must have a valid health permit to operate in one of the following categories:

- **Annual Producer:** a person or business that sells packaged nuts, eggs, or other agricultural products at a special event or similar temporary gathering
- **Annual Sampler:** a person or business that sells individual sample portions of food/beverage at a special event or similar temporary gathering
- **Temporary Food Establishment:** a food establishment which operates at a fixed location temporarily, for a time-period not to exceed 14 days, at a special event or similar temporary gathering

If you are planning to conduct business as a food establishment at a special event in Washoe County, utilize this checklist to ensure your health permit is valid and your business is ready to safely operate.

Check with your jurisdiction's Business Licensing Office to see if you need additional licenses. Use the links below to connect with each licensing office and respective Fire Departments.

- [Washoe County Business License](#) or call 775-328-3733
- [City of Reno Business License](#) or call 775-334-2090
- [City of Sparks Business License](#) or call 775-353-5555

Secure an approved and permitted kitchen for advance food storage and/or preparation – not applicable if all food preparation and dishwashing occur on-site at the event

- All food storage and/or preparation that occurs in advance of the special event must occur in a permitted, commercial kitchen.
- All equipment and utensil washing that occurs before or after the special event must occur in a permitted, commercial kitchen.
- A permitted, commercial kitchen is not required for operators that wish to purchase food/beverage items the day of the event, prepare all food/beverage items on-site at the special event, and wash all equipment and utensils on-site. Vendors may be asked to verify food/beverage purchasing dates at time of inspection. Vendors that do not have access to a 3-compartment sink at the special event must receive prior approval for a 3-tub system for dishwashing.

Apply for a Health Permit using the Application for Special Events Food Permit

- To allow adequate time for processing, please submit applications at least 15 business days prior to the start of the event. Applications and payments submitted within 7 business days of the event will be charged a late fee. Applications and payments submitted within 2 complete business days of the event will not be accepted. Permits will only be issued when both the application and payment are complete. Without a valid permit to operate, the vendor will not be able to serve food at the event. Permit fees can be viewed on the [WCHD Environmental Health Fees](#) webpage.
- Applications can be submitted electronically via email to healthes@washoecounty.gov or fax to 775-328-6176. Payments for applications submitted electronically can be made via phone using a credit card. Applications and payments can also be made in-person at the Environmental Health Services office located on the 2nd floor at 1001 East 9th Street, Building B, Reno, NV 89512. Payments can be made before 4pm on all business days.
- For questions regarding the applications, contact WCHD EHS by calling 775-328-2434, option #8, or emailing healthes@washoecounty.gov

Successfully complete a Pre-Event Interview

- Once all application forms are received and processed, you can expect to be contacted by an EHS inspector to review your menu and proposed booth set-up.

Permit Issuance: food preparation and sale can begin

- Independent and small events: once the pre-event interview is conducted, the inspector will notify the applicant if the permit is approved. If approved, food preparation and sales can begin.
- Larger events with multiple food establishment permits: an on-site opening inspection may be required prior to permit issuance. Food preparation and sales must not commence prior to approval of the opening inspection.

Operational inspection(s) conducted by EHS inspector at the special event

- Inspections are unannounced as they are intended to provide the inspector with an adequate representation of routine operations at the food establishment.
- The number of inspections will be conducted depends on the number of days the food establishment is in operation and the risk level of the foods being prepared.
- Special Events Food Establishments that are determined to be out of compliance with foodservice requirements may be subject to re-inspections as needed.

For additional resources and information:

- Review Chapter 210 of the [Regulations of the Washoe County District Board of Health Governing Food Establishments](#)
- Visit the WCHD EHS website for the [Special Events & Temporary Food Program](#)
- Visit the WCHD EHS [Food Safety Services Resource Library](#)
- Contact the WCHD EHS front desk by calling 775-328-2434, option #8, or emailing healthes@washoecounty.gov

Office Use Only

Fee Paid _____
Late Fee Paid _____
Date Paid _____
Cash/ CC/ Check _____
Receipt No. _____
Permit # _____

Application for Special Events Food Permit

Application is to be completed, in full, by the applicant. Please print clearly. Permits are NOT transferable and NOT refundable.

Please submit applications at least 15 business days before the event. Applications and payments submitted within 7 business days of the event will be charged a late fee. Applications and payments submitted within 2 complete business days of the event will not be accepted.

Permit Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Producer: Packaged nuts, eggs, and/or other agriculture products
	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Sampling: Individual sample portions of food/beverage
	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Food Establishment (TFE)

Applicant Information	Applicant Name:	Applicant Contact Number:	Applicant Email:	
	Applicant Street Address:	City	State	Zip

Business Information	Business Name (DBA):	Have you participated in previous events in Washoe County? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
	Name of Person-in-Charge (must be present at event):	Person-in-Charge Contact Number:	Person-in-Charge Email Address:	

Number of Booths at Event with Same Menu: _____
Please Note: Separate application required for different menu

Fill out the following table for ALL events/ dates at which food/beverage items will be sold.

PLEASE NOTE: TFE permit applicants may list a maximum of 14 recurring, non-consecutive dates for the SAME event (i.e. Farmer's Markets, weekly events, etc.). TFE permit applicants must fill out different applications for separate events.

Event Information	Event Date	Event Start & End Time	Event Name	Event Location	Event Coordinator	Coordinator Phone Number	

Food Source and Storage	Fill out the following table for ALL food/beverage items to be sold or sampled at the event(s). Food/beverage items that are not listed will NOT be allowed for service. Attach a separate menu if additional space is needed.			
	Food/ Beverage Item	Cooking Procedures	Holding (Hot/Cold)	Serving (Hot/Cold)
Will food/beverage items be prepared and/or stored off-site before the event?				
<input type="checkbox"/> YES. Fill out the following information for the location at which the food/beverage items will be prepared and/or stored prior to the event: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Is the facility in Washoe County? <input type="checkbox"/> YES. Permit #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NO. Attach a copy of the facility's valid health permit.		<input type="checkbox"/> NO. My food/beverage items will not be stored and/or prepared off-site. I understand that I am required to purchase all food and beverage items/ingredients the day of the event. Food must not be stored or prepared at home. By initialing below, I acknowledge that I may be asked to verify purchasing dates of food/beverage items at the time of inspection. Failure to provide proof of purchase may result in further enforcement action, including permit suspension. Applicant Initials: _____		
Advance Preparation Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ How will food items will be kept hot or cold during transport? Length of transportation time (minutes): _____		Once initialled, skip to "Food Preparation and Holding" section.		
Food Preparation and Holding	Handwashing Facility Type (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> PLUMBED SINK <input type="checkbox"/> GRAVITY FLOW CONTAINER <input type="checkbox"/> SELF-CONTAINED PORTABLE UNIT Please note: Gravity flow containers must be a minimum of 2 gallons of potable water in an insulated container, and must be equipped with a hands-free spigot, a 5-gallon bucket for wastewater, pump handsoap, and paper towels.		Utensil/ Equipment Washing Type (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> PLUMBED 3-COMPARTMENT SINK <input type="checkbox"/> 3-TUB SYSTEM LOCATED INSIDE BOOTH (prior approval required) <input type="checkbox"/> ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF CLEAN UTENSILS FOR DAILY OPERATION Please note: Utilization of a 3-tub system is only permitted with prior approval from WCHD. All off-site utensil/equipment washing must occur in a commercial kitchen and may not be washed at home.	
	List All Cold-Holding Equipment Type(s) and Quantity: List All Cooking Equipment Type(s) and Quantity:		List All Hot-Holding Equipment Type(s) and Quantity: List All Reheating Equipment Type(s) and Quantity:	
	List Sampling Methods and Equipment if applicable:			
I have a calibrated STEM THERMOMETER available for taking food temperatures throughout the event. Please note: Thermometers must be able to accurately measure temperatures within 0-220°F. Vendors selling food items that do not require temperature control are not required to have a stem thermometer.			Applicant Initials:	

Equipment and Facilities	On-site Garbage and Refuse Disposal (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> COVERED CANS <input type="checkbox"/> DUMPSTERS	Garbage and Refuse Disposal Provided by: <input type="checkbox"/> EVENT COORDINATOR <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTH OPERATOR Name of responsible party: _____
	Restroom Facilities Type (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> PORTABLE TOILETS <input type="checkbox"/> INDOOR TOILETS	Restroom Facilities Provided by (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> EVENT COORDINATOR <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTH OPERATOR Name of responsible party: _____
	Wastewater Disposal Type (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> SANITARY SEWER <input type="checkbox"/> HOLDING TANK (see Operational Checklist)	Wastewater Disposal Provided by (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> EVENT COORDINATOR <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTH OPERATOR Name of responsible party: _____
Drinkable (potable) Water Source for cooking and handwashing: (ex. Municipal water with food-grade hose, bottled water, etc.) _____	Electrical Supply Provided by (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> EVENT COORDINATOR <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTH OPERATOR	








Terms and Conditions	Review the following Term and Conditions for Operation of a Special Events Food Establishment and initial in the box corresponding to each statement. By initialling, the applicant acknowledges that failure to adhere to these terms and conditions may result in further enforcement action, including permit suspension.	
	Terms and Conditions for Operation of a Special Events Food Establishment	Applicant Initials
	I have reviewed and understand the requirements of this permit and of operating a Special Events Food Establishment. I understand that issuance and retention of this permit depends upon acceptable compliance with temporary foodservice requirements as stated in Chapter 170 and Chapter 210 of the Regulations of the Washoe County District Board of Health Governing Food Establishments.	
	I understand that my Special Events Food Establishment will be inspected by the Health Authority. I understand that failure to comply with food safety may result in further enforcement action, including assessment of reinspection fees and/or closure of my Special Events Food Establishment.	
	I acknowledge that interfering with the Health Authority's ability to perform their duties is a violation of Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 446.885(3) and intimidating behavior against a public officer is a violation of NRS 199.3300 (Intimidating a public employee). I understand these behaviors include, but are not limited to threats of violence, abusive language, unwarranted physical contact; and that partaking in these behaviors may result in a closure of my Special Events Food Establishment. I understand that Washoe County employees will adhere to their Code of Conduct and work with you honestly, respectfully, fairly, and courteously.	
I understand that my application is <u>NOT</u> approved until I have been successfully interviewed by an inspector regarding the operation of my Special Events Food Establishment. I acknowledge that repeat vendors whose menu has not changed may only receive one interview per year.		








Application Acknowledgement	By signing below, I certify that I am the owner or authorized representative of this business and that all statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge.	
	Print Name:	Date:
	Signature:	Date:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - ADDITIONAL PERMIT NOTES

SPECIAL EVENTS FOOD ESTABLISHMENT OPERATIONAL CHECKLIST

This form is a tool to help operators ensure they have all the equipment needed to obtain compliance at special events. Complete this checklist as you set up your booth. Present the completed checklist to your Washoe County Health District (WCHD) inspector at time of inspection.

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>STOCKED HAND SINK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be set up and used prior to any food related activities • must be either hands free (no push-button spigots) OR self-contained • must be fully stocked with a minimum of 2 gallons of water, soap, paper towels, and a 5-gallon wastewater bucket • must be located in all food prep areas and accessible at all times • hands must be washed whenever switching activities / gloves, and whenever they may become contaminated 	 <p>Hands Free Self-contained</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND HYGIENE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employees must be in good health—no food handling if employee has diarrhea, vomiting sore throat with fever, un-covered lesions on hands, etc. • hands and clothing must be clean, hair must be restrained • no smoking or eating in booth 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>WATER FROM APPROVED SOURCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all water used for cooking and handwashing must be from a sealed commercial source or from a permitted food facility • may not use water from garden hoses or personal residences 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>WASTEWATER DISPOSAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wastewater must be disposed of in a holding tank or sewer • may be provided by event coordinator, location must be known by operator 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>COVER OVER FOOD PREP, GROUND COVER MUST MINIMIZE DUST</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food prep area must be covered to provide protection from environment • grills and deep fryers can extend beyond the cover to comply with fire codes • floors of booth must be smooth and easily cleanable – no dirt or mud in food prep area 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>COLD HOLDING EQUIPMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all equipment must be clean • must be capable of holding cold food at a temperature of 41°F or less • ice chests may be used (ice used for refrigeration may not be used for consumption) 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>HOT HOLDING EQUIPMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all equipment must be clean • must be capable of holding hot food at a temperature of 135°F or more • must use direct power or propane, no Sterno or canister heat allowed outdoors 	

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>COVERED GARBAGE CANS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide dumpster or covered garbage cans for disposal • garbage must be removed at a frequency that prevents accumulation, odors and pests 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>DISHWASHING / CLEAN UTENSILS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must provide or have access to a plumbed 3-compartment sink for washing with soap and water, rinsing with fresh water, and sanitizing • utensils must be properly washed every 4 hours OR booth must have an adequate supply of clean utensils for daily operation so that utensils are switched out every 4 hours • prior approval of a 3-tub system for dishwashing is required before operation 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>SANITIZER AND TEST STRIPS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have approved method to sanitize surfaces as needed, such as a spray bottle or sanitizer bucket • must provide test strips to monitor sanitizer concentration (<i>chlorine 50-100ppm or quat 200-400ppm</i>) 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>FOOD PROTECTION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must protect displayed foods with a sneeze guard or other effective means • samples must be provided individually, no common bowls • all equipment must be smooth, easily cleanable and in good repair • personal belongings and food/drink must be stored aware from food prep area 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>FOOD FROM APPROVED SOURCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all food must be from an approved source, <i>nothing can be made at home</i> • farms selling produce must have a Dept. Of Agriculture Grower's Certificate on-site 	
<p><u>NO BARE-HAND CONTACT WITH READY-TO-EAT FOODS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gloves, utensils, wax paper or other effective means must be used to handle RTE foods • gloves must be changed whenever switching tasks or gloves become otherwise contaminated • hands must be washed prior to donning new gloves 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>STEM THERMOMETER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have a calibrated stem thermometer to monitor final cook, and hot and cold holding temperatures • operator must have knowledge of temperature parameters for foods being served • thermometer must be able to accurately measure temperatures within 0-220°F. 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>FOOD / SINGLE USE ITEM STORAGE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all food and single use items must be stored at least 6 inches off the ground 	