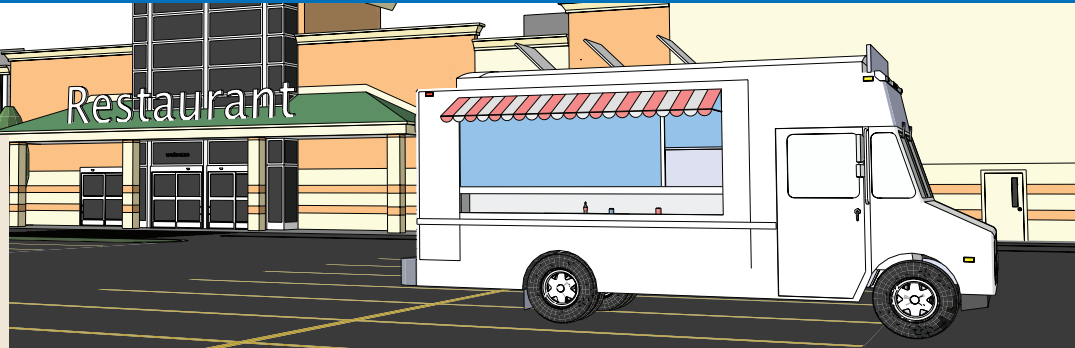




# Planning & Development

October 2011

## 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:

1. Shopping Center
2. Neighborhood Business
3. Business
4. Thoroughfare District
5. Industrial-1
6. Industrial-2

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 not conduct sales while parked on a public street. 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 and Licenses:

**1. Zoning Permit:** Provides specific information regarding the location of the food truck. The zoning permit must be signed by the property owner, and completed and submitted along with a site plan or 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 proof of a City business license, NC sales and use certificate, Wake County vending permit, and may require the approval of a City home occupation permit.

**3. Business License:** Allows vendor to operate a business in the City of Raleigh.

Copies of food truck permit, the zoning permit and site or 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:

- For parcels less than a ½ acre in size, only one food truck is allowed on the property at the same time. Properties between ½ and 1 acre in size may have two food trucks at the same time.
- For parcels over 1 acre in size, a maximum of three food trucks are allowed on the property at the same time.
- 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 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:

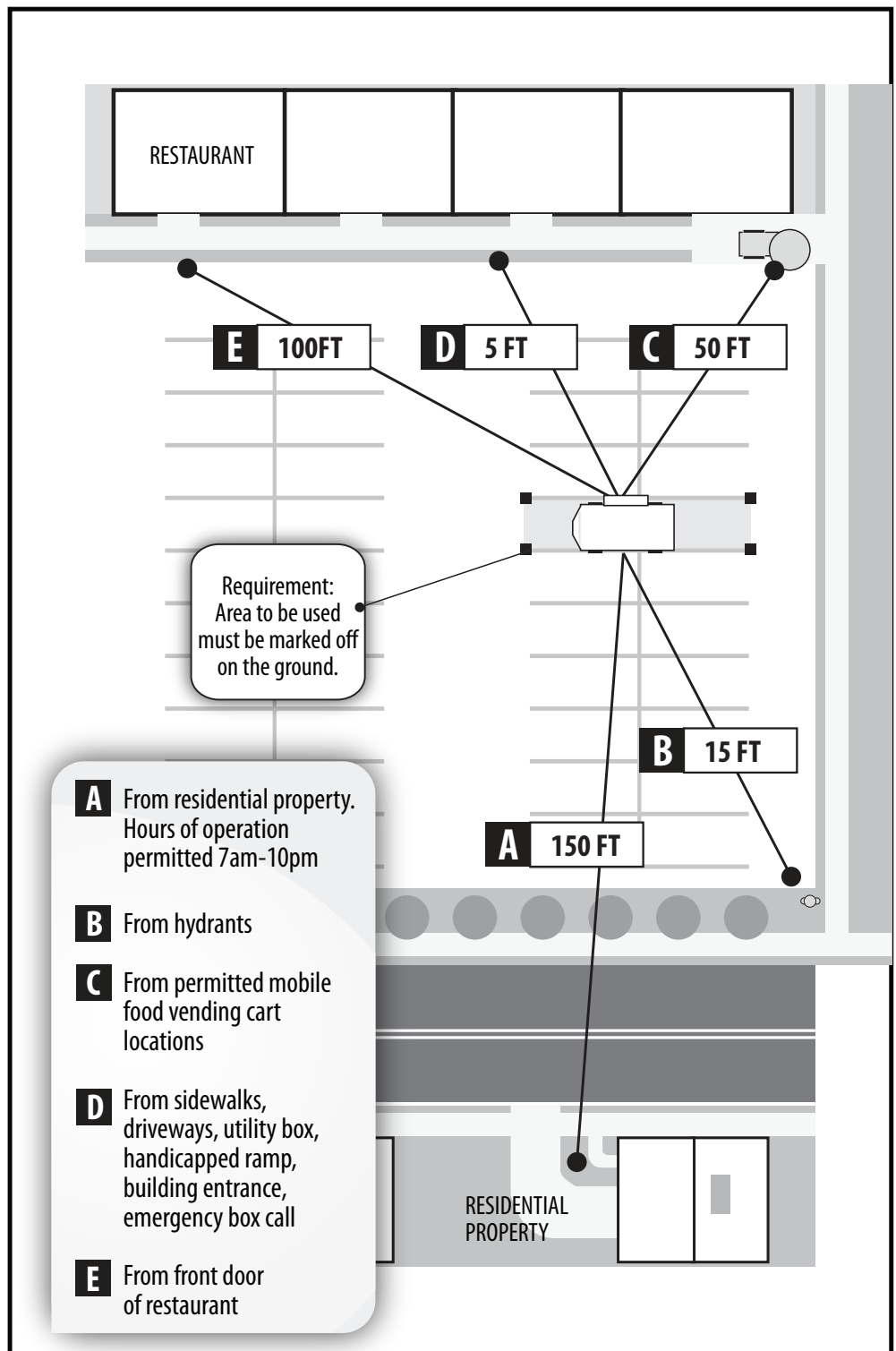
- 6 a.m. and 3 a.m. for food trucks in commercial locations
- 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. for food trucks located within 150' of a residential dwelling

## 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 city-wide noise ordinance. Sound absorbing devices may be used to contain or deflect the noise from external generators.

## Violation of Zoning Ordinance:

- 1st offense - \$100 fine
- 2nd offense - \$300 fine
- 3rd violation will result in loss of permit



## Contact Information

Permit Issuance - City of Raleigh Development Services Division 919.516.2495  
 Business License - City of Raleigh Revenue Services Division 919.996.3200  
 Wake County Vending Permit – Wake County 919.856.5999  
 North Carolina Sales Tax – North Carolina Revenue Department 1.877.252.3052



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