

Overview

CMC Sec. 723-42 regulates Mobile Food Truck Vending within city streets. Municipal Code changes in 2023 removed limited designated street parking spaces to allow food vending in all legal street parking spaces with some requirements. In addition, the Department of Transportation & Engineering (DOTE) provides additional guidelines for use of the public right-of-way streets and sidewalks.

Did you know?

Sidewalk Vending is regulated by CMC 723-16 and ONLY permitted in designated districts in the city at pre-determined stationary sidewalk locations. Cincinnati Department of Transportation & Engineering administers these licenses.

Peddler & Itinerant Vendor Licenses are regulated by CMC 839 and are non-assigned locations, permitted in areas other than designated vending districts. The Cincinnati Treasury administers these licenses.

Cincinnati Health Department and Fire Department permit and inspect mobile food service operations.

- The City of Cincinnati administers Special Event permits through the City Manager's Office of Special Events. Food Trucks may be permitted within the Special Events area from the event organizer. Info at: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/manager/special-events/

Cincinnati civic spaces managed by 3CDC for 3CDC sponsored events, may permit on-street food truck parking adjacent to the civic space. 3CDC will issue this permit. This includes Washington Park, Ziegler Park, Court St. Plaza and Fountain Square.

Food trucks on private property, outside the public right-of-way, are not regulated by CMC Sec. 723-42.

How to:

Private event catering - DOTE will issue a permit for you or the party organizer to obtain a Police "no parking" sign if food service is catered to that private event only.

- Obtain a DOTE Street Use Permit at 801 Plum St., Suite 425, Cincinnati, Oh 45202.
<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote/permits-licenses/dote-resource-page/>
- Obtain a Police "no parking" sign at your local district.
<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/special-events-regulations-auctions/instructions-and-guidelines-for-requesting-temporary-parking-restrictions/>

Mobile Food Vendors can obtain and hold written consent from nearby restaurants, schools, outdoor dining, etc. if servicing patrons within 100 feet.



FOOD TRUCK ON-STREET PARKING

REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES

city of
CINCINNATI
TRANSPORTATION &
ENGINEERING

DOTE Guidelines

CMC Sec. 723-42 Mobile Food Vending

Note: These are not the complete regulations.
To view the full municipal code, visit:



- 1** The mobile food vendor is solely responsible for being aware of and to follow the Mobile Food Vending regulations of CMC 723-42.
- 2** Cincinnati Law Enforcement Officer or Parking Enforcement Agent are responsible for enforcing sections of the CMC related to parking violations, including mobile food vending. Mobile food vendors must comply with all applicable parking restrictions and requirements. If unsafe conditions result on the sidewalks or roadway, mobile food vendors may be directed to promptly vacate its parking spot.
 - A)** Cincinnati Law Enforcement non-emergency dispatch: 513-765-1212.
 - B)** Cincinnati Parking Enforcement: 513-352-4527.
- 3** The mobile food vendor may not:
 - A)** Install furniture or umbrellas on public streets or sidewalks during food operations.
 - B)** Bolt/secure items into the roadway or sidewalk.
 - C)** Leave any litter, waste, or debris behind.
 - D)** Block, obstruct or restrict free passage of vehicles or persons on the streets or sidewalk. Accessible conditions must be maintained along the adjacent sidewalk or curb ramps.
 - E)** Install vertical/projecting elements outside the boundary of the parking space. Here shall be no overhang into the adjacent vehicular travel lane.
- 4** Generators
 - A)** Placement must be directly adjacent to the mobile food vendor vehicle in a designated parking space/directly adjacent on the public sidewalk.
 - B)** Temporary charging cords shall not be placed over the sidewalk unless the cord is fully covered with an ADA compliant cover. If crossing the sidewalk, the cord shall be placed at a 90° angle to the public right of way.
- 5** Vendor shall meet the City's Loud Noise requirements of the CMC Sec. 909-3 which includes no amplification of sound.

- 1** The mobile food-vending unit must be parked within a designated parking space, provided that a mobile food vendor may not park within the following areas:
 - A)** A residential zoning district;
 - B)** A parking zone that requires a parking permit;
 - C)** Parking spaces designated for motorcycle or bicycle parking;
 - D)** Parking spaces designated for disabled persons;
 - E)** No parking zones, loading zones, valet zones, bus lanes, bicycle lanes/other restricted use zones;
 - F)** Within 100 feet of a restaurant, food service business, school, or outdoor dining area or parklet space, unless the mobile food vendor first obtains the prior written consent of all operators of restaurants, food service businesses, schools, and outdoor dining areas, and parklet spaces located within 100 feet of the subject parking space;
 - G)** Within 100 feet of a sidewalk vendor authorized under Section 723-16, "Sidewalk Vending";
 - H)** Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant, bus stop, mailbox, building entrance, sidewalk elevator, fire exit or escape, or a police or fire call box; or
 - I)** Within 750 feet of a special event, community event, parade, or assembly, unless authorized to participate in such event.

- 2** A mobile food vendor must:
 - A)** Be actively engaged in providing mobile food-vending at all times while occupying a parking space.
 - B)** Keep the area within a 5-foot radius of the mobile food-vending unit clear of all litter and debris arising from their operations.
 - C)** Collect and dispose of all litter, waste, and debris generated by their mobile food vending, including litter, waste, and debris generated by their customers. Such litter, waste, and debris shall not be placed in city trash receptacles.
 - D)** Pay all parking and meter fees for the parking spot occupied by its mobile food-vending unit and shall comply with all applicable parking restrictions and requirements.
 - E)** Promptly vacate its parking spot and cease providing mobile food vending if directed to do so by a parking enforcement agent or law enforcement officer in the interest of public health or safety or when the parking spot is required for municipal purposes.
 - F)** Comply with all applicable food-service laws, rules, regulations, including, but not limited to, obtain a food-service permit and related certifications.
- 3** A mobile food vendor may not:
 - A)** Utilize the city's electrical outlets, unless specifically authorized by the city.
 - B)** Park in a manner that prevents other vehicles from parking in otherwise available spaces.
 - C)** Block, obstruct, or restrict the free passage of vehicles or persons in the lawful use of street, sidewalks, and public rights-of-way or ingress or egress to an abutting property.

