

# How do I Start a Food Facility?

## What do I do if I want to open a restaurant, grocery store or other retail food establishment?

If you are interested in starting a business which will provide food to the public, you should first contact the Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health Division, for assistance. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for County holidays. Our Bakersfield Office is located at: 2700 M Street, Suite 300. Persons living in outlying areas may make an appointment with our representative at one of our outlying district offices. You can contact us by phone at 661-862-8700 or 1-800-522-5376; by fax 661-862-8701; or by e-mail: [eh@co.kern.ca.us](mailto:eh@co.kern.ca.us).

Our office will provide you with a copy of state regulations and guidelines for the construction or remodel of food establishments. [Plan check guidelines](#) may also be downloaded. You will need to submit plans and specifications to the Division for review and approval. Our staff will review your plans and specifications to insure that your establishment, once constructed, will meet state regulations.

You should also contact the Building Inspection Department and other government agencies having jurisdiction over the type of business you are interested in.

## What do I do if I want to purchase an existing restaurant, grocery store or other food establishment?

If you are interested in purchasing an existing food facility of any type, please contact our office. We will conduct an up-to-date inspection and inform you of any changes or remodeling which may be required to bring the facility up to current standards. Since standards have changed over the years, even a restaurant which is operating may not meet current regulations because it has been "grandfathered" under the laws as they have changed. When a facility has been closed for six months or more, the owner will be required to bring the facility into compliance with current regulations. In addition, if the former owner or lessee removed all the equipment, plans and specifications will be required.

## What do I do if I want to purchase an existing restaurant, grocery store or other food establishment?

Once your plans have been approved, and construction is near completion, contact the Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health Division, for an inspection. When your establishment receives approval to open and the required health permit fee is paid, a health permit will be issued. The health permit is non-transferable and non-refundable.

## How much does it cost for a food establishment permit?

Fees for health permits are established by the Board of Supervisors. The [fee ordinance](#) contains health permit fees for various types of establishments.

## What other agencies do I need to contact?

Below are the names and address of other agencies which may be involved in the type of food operation you are planning

<b>Agency Contact List</b> (Lista de contactos de agencias)			
City of Bakersfield	County	State	Federal
<b>City Business License</b> 1600 Truxtun Ave (661) 326-3762 <a href="http://www.ci.bakersfield.ca.us">www.ci.bakersfield.ca.us</a>	<b>County Clerk-Fictitious Names</b> 1115 Truxtun Ave (661) 868-3588 <a href="http://www.co.kern.ca.us">www.co.kern.ca.us</a>	<b>Department of Community Housing &amp; Development</b> 3737 Main St., Suite 400 Riverside, CA 92501 (951) 782-4420 <a href="http://www.hcd.ca.gov">www.hcd.ca.gov</a>	<b>Internal Revenue Service</b> Employer Identification Number 4825 Coffee Rd (800) 829-1040
<b>City Planning Department/Zoning</b> 1715 Chester Ave (661) 326-3733 <a href="http://www.ci.bakersfield.ca.us">www.ci.bakersfield.ca.us</a>	<b>County Business License</b> 1350 Norris Rd., Unit B (661) 391-7690 <a href="http://www.co.kern.ca.us">www.co.kern.ca.us</a>	<b>State Board of Equalization</b> 1800 30 <sup>th</sup> St, Suite 380 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor) (661) 395-2881 <a href="http://www.boe.ca.gov">http://www.boe.ca.gov</a>	
<b>Recreation &amp; Parks Department</b> City Parks Permit 1600 Truxtun Ave (661) 326-3866	<b>County Planning Department</b> Zoning Approval 2700 M. St. (661) 862-8600 <a href="http://pcd.kerndsa.com">pcd.kerndsa.com</a>	<b>Department of Motor Vehicles</b> 3120 F St. (800) 777-0133 <a href="http://www.dmv.ca.gov">www.dmv.ca.gov</a>	
	<b>County Fire Department</b> Fire Prevention Unit 5642 Victor St. (661) 391-7080	<b>Department of Food and Agriculture</b> Milk and Dairy Foods Control Branch (916) 900-5008 <a href="http://www.cdffa.ca.gov">www.cdffa.ca.gov</a>	
	<b>Kern County Department of Agriculture &amp; Measurements Standards</b> 1001 So. Mt. Vernon Ave (661) 868-6300 <a href="http://www.kernag.com">www.kernag.com</a>	<b>Department Of Public Health Food and Drug Branch Processed Food Registration</b> P.O. Box 997435, MS 7602 Sacramento, CA 95899-7435 (916) 650-6500 <a href="http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pages/FDB%20processedfoods.aspx">http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pages/FDB%20processedfoods.aspx</a>	

## Outlying City Business Licenses and Zoning Requirements

<p><b>City of Arvin</b> Business License/Zoning 200 Campus Dr. (661) 854-3134</p>	<p><b>City of Ridgecrest</b> Business License 100 W. California (760) 499-5026</p>	<p><b>City of Taft</b> Business License 209 E. Kern County (661) 763-1350</p>	<p><b>City of Wasco</b> Business License/Zoning 764 E. St. (661) 758-7231</p>
<p><b>City of Delano</b> Business License/Zoning 1015 11<sup>th</sup> Ave (661) 720-2265</p>	<p><b>City of Shafter</b> Business License/Zoning 336 Pacific Ave (661) 746-5001</p>	<p><b>City of Tehachapi</b> Business License/Zoning 115 S. Robinson (661) 822-2200</p>	<p><b>City of Maricopa</b> Business License/Zoning 400 California St (661) 769-8279</p>
<p><b>City of California City</b> Business License/Zoning 21000 Hacienda Blvd (760) 373-8661</p>	<p><b>City of McFarland</b> Business License/Zoning 401 W. Kern Ave. (661) 792-3091</p>		