



## Buncombe County Environmental Health

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### Guidance for Temporary Food Establishment Organizers

The following is some guidance information to assist an event organizer in hosting a Temporary Food Establishment (TFE). All items are necessary to obtain a permit for a TFE; however, additional requirements may be applicable. **All applications must be submitted to Buncombe County Environmental Health (BCEH) at least 15 days prior to the date of the event.**

- **Electricity**

- Vendors will have varying needs for power, ensure you are having discussions with them directly about their power needs.

**\*Note-** The use of off-board gasoline generators is prohibited in the City of Asheville's downtown fire districts; Diesel generators can be considered with approval of an electrical permit secured by the event organizer.

- **Safe and Approvable Water Supply**

- City Water is approved, but must be obtained from potable water access points.

- On-Site Private Wells ***might*** be approved, but must meet minimum construction standards as outlined in 15A NCAC 18A .1700 and will require bacteriological testing in advance by Buncombe County Environmental Health.

- For either water source, backflow prevention must be in place.

- If a hose is installed to access point, it must be a food grade hose that has been sanitized.

- If you place a spray nozzle on the hose, it must be a food grade spray nozzle.

- The hose must be protected from contacting the ground (by hanging, placing on a hose stand, or a similar method).

- Purchased bottled water is approved, but only for events with vendors not in need of high volumes of water and must be in unopened purchased containers or by tanker truck. This would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. (Copy of receipt or invoice required)

**DON'T:**

**X-** Garden hoses CANNOT be approved.

**X-** Fire hydrants CANNOT be approved as a potable water access point.

- **Wastewater Disposal**

- Disposal in an approved sewage system (municipal sewer) by dumping in a utility sink, mop sink, can wash, or the 'wash' sink of a 3-compartment sink.

**\*Note:** In the City of Asheville, all new food waste sewage disposal must be approved by the Metropolitan Sewerage District. Contact MSD for approval at (828) 254-9646.

- On-Site Septic Systems already approved for restaurant/food service waste can be used once verified and approved.
- Greywater removal service is approved. Ensure the tank capacity will be sufficient for number of vendors.
  - It is helpful to provide a large funnel for vendors to use when pouring greywater into tank.

**DON'T:**

**X-** Vendors by law are not approved to transport greywater, disposal **MUST** occur on-site of the event.

**X-** Private On-Site Septic Systems cannot be approved. All waste will need to be handled through a third party contracted service for portable bathrooms and portable greywater removal (Copy of receipt or invoice for services required).

- **Toilet Facilities**

- Toilet facilities must be provided. On-Site Bathroom facilities or Portable Toilets are approved (see section above regarding wastewater disposal).

- **Used Oil:**

- Some food vendors generate a large amount of used cooking oil. Oil disposal must be provided.

**\*Note:** City of Asheville requires ground surface protection (tar paper) under TFE operations conducted on city properties to prevent oils and staining of pavement or cement.

**DON'T:**

**X-** Grease, used cooking oil and wastewater **CANNOT** be dumped in storm drains.

- **Other Refuse:**

- Centralized refuse collection must occur in containers that have tight fitting doors and lids.

**DON'T:**

**X-** Open top (construction waste type) dumpsters **CANNOT** be approved.

- **COMPLETE List of ALL Vendors anticipated to participate in the event:**

- Submit list of anticipated vendors and contact information along with your TFE Organizer Application, and **no later than 15 days prior to the event.**

- **Map or Sketch of Event Layout:**

- Submit a map or sketch of the event layout along with the organizer application. Be sure that the following are labeled (as applicable) for the inspector to be able to review and locate the day of the event permitting:

- Potable Water Access
- Grey water tank(s)
- Used oil tank(s)
- Toilet facilities
- Additional food storage (refrigeration trucks, etc.)
- Food vendors
- Dumpsters/Trash receptacles

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: *LOSS OF POWER SERVICE, LOSS OF WATER SERVICE, OR FLOODING would require referencing the Inclement Weather Action Plan!***

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