



CITY OF WHITEHOUSE

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WhitehouseTX.org

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Mobile Food Unit (MFU) Information Sheet

PURPOSE

This handout provides general guidance for operating a Mobile Food Unit (MFU) within the City of Whitehouse. State law governs food safety and health licensing. The City regulates zoning, fire safety, and land use.

1. STATE LICENSING (Required)

All Mobile Food Units must:

- Obtain a valid Mobile Food Vendor License from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Comply with Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 437
- Meet DSHS commissary requirements (if applicable)
- Pass required state inspections

The City does not duplicate state health permits.

2. HB 2844 - WHAT THE CITY CANNOT REQUIRE

Under Texas House Bill 2844:

- The City may not require additional local health permits if you hold a valid DSHS license.
- The City may not require daily relocation unless operating as part of a temporary event.
- The City may not impose operational standards that conflict with state law regarding food preparation, commissary use, or licensing classifications.

3. WHERE YOU MAY OPERATE (Zoning)

Mobile Food Units may operate:

- On private property with written property owner authorization
- At approved special events

Operation in the public right-of-way is limited and must not create traffic or safety hazards.
Always confirm zoning compliance before beginning operations.

4. SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Must be located on an improved or stabilized surface
- Provide a self-contained trash receptacle
- Maintain a clean and sanitary site
- Permanent restroom facilities must be within 500 feet unless otherwise allowed by state law or special event authorization

5. FIRE & LIFE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

All MFUs must comply with Whitehouse Fire Department standards, including:

- Minimum 15-foot clearance from hydrants, structures, and other vendors
- Proper fire extinguishers (Class K where required)
- Safe propane cylinder installation
- Safe generator placement
- Type I hood systems when required
- Carbon monoxide detector for gas-operated units

6. ENFORCEMENT

The City investigates zoning, fire safety, and nuisance complaints.

Suspected health violations are referred to DSHS.

Violations of City land use or fire regulations may result in citation.

