



Food safety advice

Street Trading Advice – Food Mobiles and Temporary Food Stalls



What is street trading?

If you sell food from a mobile or a temporary stall in Coventry, then you may need to apply for a Street Trading Licence. Street Trading in the city is controlled by the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982, Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Food mobiles can be any mobile unit, (e.g. trailer, van, cart, bicycle or temporary stall) and can sell any type of food, (hot or cold). The City is divided into two distinct trading zones:

Selling food from a mobile **INSIDE** Coventry city centre

The first zone is the area anywhere inside of the ring road. There are several designated trading plots inside the City Centre which are available for lease. There are also a variety of occasional markets and street fares which take place which also have trading pitches. If you wish to trade inside the City Centre take a look here:

www.coventry.gov.uk/marketsandstreettrading

or contact Market Services department of the City Council (024 7622 4947 or coventrymarket@coventry.gov.uk) for information on available plots and fees.

Selling food from a mobile **OUTSIDE** Coventry city centre

The second trading zone is the area of the City which falls outside of the ring road. If you wish to trade in this zone you must first decide on the place you wish to trade. If you wish to trade on private land you must first seek and gain the permission of the land owner. Council parks and land owned by the Council are included as private land.

If you wish to trade on the **public highway** you must apply for a Street Trading Licence from the Licensing Department of the City Council (licensing@coventry.gov.uk) prior to trading. There is a cost involved to obtain a Street Trading Licence. You must contact the licensing team for application information – the Food Safety Team is not able to provide this information. Further advice can also be found online: www.coventry.gov.uk/businesslicensing



Food safety advice

Things to consider before applying for a Street Trading Licence

Street trading inside Coventry is very competitive as pitches and places to trade are very rare, with most of the potentially profitable sites being already taken. Therefore before deciding to buy a hot food mobile you must carefully consider the following:

- Where you are going to trade?
- What you are going to sell?
- Operating costs?
- Do you have permission to trade?
- Do you need a Street Trading Licence?
- Local competition?

Registering your food mobile or temporary food stall

Once you have decided on the above and have obtained a Street Trading Licence (if applicable), you must register as a food business with the Food Safety Team, **28 days** before you plan to trade. You can do this online here: <https://register.food.gov.uk/new/coventry>

It is a legal requirement for all food businesses to be registered with the Local Authority in which they are based. If you trade in Coventry but keep the mobile unit in a different location outside of the City, you must register with the Local Authority where the mobile unit is stored. For example if you trade in Coventry but store the unit at home in Nuneaton, you must register with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

The registration of the mobile will generate a Food Hygiene and Health and Safety Inspection from an Officer from the Food Safety team. The inspection will be unannounced and focus on your food and health and safety controls. The food hygiene aspect of the inspection will generate an inspection score under the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.



Want to know more?

A variety of advice sheets are available on the Council's Food Safety website: www.coventry.gov.uk/foodsafety

and the Food Standards Agency website: www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance

