

FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT WINERIES & BREWERIES

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my winery or brewery need a Health Permit from Environmental Health?

It depends....

- **NO**, if you do not exceed 25 sq. ft. of non-perishable, pre-packaged food items and crackers/pretzels that are served to accompany beer or wine. The California Retail Food Code (CRFC) exempts this small level of food distribution.
- **YES**, if you exceed 25 sq. ft. of pre-packaged food (perishable and non-perishable food allowed) to be sold or served at your winery or brewery. The proposed area must meet all CRFC construction and equipment standards and be approved by Environmental Health plan check. Examples of allowable foods include: **prepackaged foods** like cheese, sandwiches, meat, and salads, as well as bottled beverages. All foods must come from an approved source, such as a permitted food distributor, permitted market, or a cottage food operator.
- **YES**, if you are a Host Facility for Caterers. Your establishment must meet all construction and equipment standards of the CRFC and be approved by Environmental Health to be a Host Facility.
- **YES**, if you are a winery or brewery with an Environmental Health plan check-approved commercial kitchen for full food preparation installed.

Can my customers bring in their own food or have food delivered from a permitted restaurant?

YES, with your permission, customers can bring in prepared food for their own consumption or order food and have it delivered to them at your location (for example, pizza delivery).

Can I sell Cottage Food at my winery or brewery?

YES, permitted cottage food operators produce pre-packaged, non-perishable foods that can be sold at wineries and breweries. A health permit from Environmental Health is required for the Cottage Food Operator **and** for the winery or brewery unless total square footage of pre-packaged food does not exceed 25 sq. ft.

Are Temporary Food Vendors or Caterers allowed to sell food outside of my winery or brewery?

- **Temporary Food Vendors** are allowed to operate at permitted **community events** on the winery or brewery's property in conjunction with a Community Event sponsor. A **community event** is defined as an event that is of civic, political, public, or educational nature as approved by Environmental Health. **Please check with the County or City Building and Planning Department for any additional permits, zoning requirements or code ordinances for events.**
- **Catering Operations** with a valid health permit and that meet the requirements to operate at permitted **Host Facilities** are allowed to serve food directly to tasting room customers for up to 4 hours in a 12-hour period. All catering dishes and equipment shall be properly washed and stored at the catering commissary.

Are Mobile Food Facilities (food trucks or food carts) allowed to sell food outside my winery or brewery?

YES, Mobile Food Facilities (MFF) with a valid health permit are allowed to operate outside during your operational hours, or as allowed by local zoning and code ordinances.

Who can I call or email with questions?

For more information regarding options to serve food at your location, please contact our offices during normal business hours at (916) 875-8440 or by email at emdinfo@saccounty.net. You can also visit Environmental Health's website at emd.saccounty.net.