



AMARILLO BI-CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
Amarillo, Canyon, Potter County, Randall County
CITY OF AMARILLO, P. O. Box 1971, Amarillo, TX, 79105-1971

Environmental Health Permits

Food Establishment Permit: A Food Establishment is defined by the Texas Food Establishment Rules as “an operation that stores, prepares, serves, vends or otherwise provides food for human consumption” and a “food” is defined as “a raw, cooked, or processed edible substance, ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended for use or for sale in whole or in part for human consumption, or chewing gum”. A Food Establishment permit is required for any person conducting the above mentioned activities within the Bi-City-County Health District.

Exemption:

A person may sell up to 200 (two-hundred) square feet of pre-packaged non TCS (Time-Temperature Control for Safety) food items without having a valid Food Establishment permit.

Examples: Packaged chips, sodas and candy bars all in their original package. No open food handling would be allowed without a valid Food Establishment permit.

Catering Permit: A licensed Caterer is defined as “any Food Establishment that prepares or serves food at a location other than their permitted establishment”. A catering permit is required when the control of the food that is being served away from the permitted Food Establishment is the responsibility of the Food Establishment and/or their employees.

Exemption:

A catering permit is not required when an establishment only “drops off” or delivers the food at a location such as a pizza delivery driver.

Mobile Food Unit Permit: A Mobile Food Unit (MFU) is defined by the Texas Food Establishment Rules as “a vehicle mounted, self or otherwise propelled, self-contained food service operation, designed to be readily movable (including, but not limited to catering trucks, trailers, push carts, and roadside vendors) and used to store, prepare, display, serve or sell food”. A MFU is typically an extension of a brick and mortar Food Establishment and a Mobile Food Unit permit is required for anyone operating in such a fashion as described above.

Exemption:

Upon application, the requirements for a physical facility may be waived if the MFU is proven to be fully self-contained.

Temporary Food Establishment Permit: A temporary Food Establishment is defined by the Texas Food Establishment Rules as “a food establishment that operates for a period of no more than 14 consecutive days in conjunction with a single event or celebration”. The event may not be reoccurring such as every Tuesday at 2:00pm. A Temporary Food Establishment permit is required for anyone operating in such a fashion as described above.

Exemption:

A licensed Caterer from the City of Amarillo Environmental Health Department will be exempt from the permitting fees associated with a Temporary Food Establishment but will **NOT** be exempt from obtaining a Temporary Food Establishment permit.

A Cottage Food vendor operating in compliance with chapter 437 of the Texas Health & Safety Code is exempt from permitting and all requirements relating to a Temporary Food Establishment.

A Small Honey Production Operation vendor operating in compliance with chapter 437 of the Texas Health & Safety Code is exempt from permitting and all requirements relating to a Temporary Food Establishment.

On-Site Sewage Facility Permit (OSSF): An On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) is defined by the Health & Safety Code Chapter 366 as “an on-site sewage disposal system” and an On-Site Sewage Facility Permit is required for anyone who constructs, alters, repairs, extends or operates an OSSF. “A person may not begin to construct, alter, repair, or extend an on-site sewage disposal system that is owned by another person unless the owner or owner’s representative shows proof of a permit and approved plan from the commission or authorized agent”.

Public Pool, Spa or PIWF Annual Operational Permit: A Public Pool is defined by Texas Administrative Code as “any man-made permanently installed or non-portable structure, basin, chamber, or tank containing an artificial body of water that is used for swimming, diving, aquatic sports, or other aquatic activity other than a residential pool and that is operated by an owner, lessee, operator, licensee or concessionaire, regardless of whether a fee is charged for use. The pool may be either publicly or privately owned”.

A Spa is defined by Texas Administrative code as “A constructed permanent or portable structure that is 2 feet or more in depth and that has a surface area of 250 square feet or less or a volume of 3250 gallons or less and that is intended to be used for bathing or other recreational uses and is not drained and refilled after each use”.

A Public Interactive Water Feature (PIWF) is defined by Texas Administrative Code as “Any indoor or outdoor installation maintained for public recreation that includes water sprays, dancing water jets, waterfalls, dumping buckets, or shooting water cannons in various arrays for the purpose of wetting the persons playing in the spray streams”

A Public Pool, Spa or PIWF Annual permit is required for anyone operating in such a fashion as described above **9 or more** months out of a year.

A Public Pool, Spa or PIWF Seasonal permit is required for anyone operating in such a fashion as described above **less than 9 months** out of a year.

Exemption:

A residential Pool, Spa or PIWF that is not open for public use is exempt from **operational** permitting and all **operational** requirements. **Note:** Building permits may still be required for the construction of a residential Pool, Spa or PIWF.