

CALIFORNIA Food Vendor



PERMIT STARTER GUIDE™

LA COUNTY • RIVERSIDE COUNTY • SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Basic permit and compliance guidance for food entrepreneurs in Los Angeles County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County.

1 BEFORE YOU START



Choose your food business type
Home kitchen, cart, pop-up, food truck, or catering.



Create a business name



Start tracking expenses



Research your county requirements

2 COMMON REQUIREMENTS



BUSINESS LICENSE

Required to legally operate your business in California.



SELLER'S PERMIT

Collect sales tax legally on taxable sales.



FOOD HANDLER CARD

Shows you know how to handle food safely.



HEALTH PERMIT

Issued by the local health department. Required for all food vendors.



COMMISSARY (IF NEEDED)

Some mobile vendors must use an approved commissary for prep and storage.



INSURANCE

General liability insurance protects your business and builds trust.

3 COUNTY QUICK NOTES



Los Angeles COUNTY

- ✓ Large population = bigger opportunities
- ✓ Strong branding & unique menu matter
- ✓ Pop-ups, street vending, and food culture are thriving
- ✓ Check local city requirements too – rules can vary by city.

Riverside COUNTY

- ✓ Growing vendor opportunities
- ✓ Strong market & event scene
- ✓ Mobile vendors are growing fast
- ✓ Build relationships with local events & communities.

San Bernardino COUNTY

- ✓ High Desert growth & expanding markets
- ✓ Lower startup costs in some areas
- ✓ Community-focused opportunities
- ✓ Build a loyal local following.

4 BEGINNER COMPLIANCE TIPS



KEEP RECORDS ORGANIZED

Documents, receipts, permits, and logs keep you protected.



NEVER IGNORE INSPECTION NOTICES

Respond on time and address issues quickly to avoid penalties.



LEARN YOUR LOCAL RULES FIRST

Every city and county can have different requirements.



STAY CONSISTENT WITH FOOD SAFETY

Clean, safe, and consistent operations keep your customers coming back.



DON'T OPERATE WITHOUT PERMITS

It can lead to fines, closures, and damage your reputation.



PERMITTED.
PREPARED.
PROFITABLE.
THAT'S THE GLOW WAY!

Start Smart. Build Strong.
GLOW FOREVER.



You've got the passion. We've got your back every step of the way.



DISCLAIMER: This guide is for educational purposes only and not legal advice. Requirements can change. Always check with your local city and county agencies for the most current information.



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