

Vending Carts on Private Property





If you are considering purchasing, installing or using a vending cart, it is important to understand which Building Code and Zoning Code standards may apply. Factors such as the location of the vending cart, the type of vending cart, and the utility services used by the vending cart will determine what Building Codes and Zoning Codes may apply and what permits will be required.

Vending cart detail	Requirement
Location of vending cart	Check requirements with Planning and Zoning. PDOT approval required if placement is to be in right-of-way.
Mobile vending carts of any length	Associated development may require a zoning permit. Site built structures may require a building permit.
Mobile vending carts over 16' in length	Additional zoning restrictions apply. Check with Planning and Zoning.
Fixed vending carts	Must meet all requirements of Zoning and Building Codes. Requires a building permit and inspection.
Drive-through vending carts (mobile and fixed)	Regulated by the Zoning Code. Check with Planning and Zoning.
Electrical work	Requires an electrical permit and inspection.
Water service and sanitary sewer installed	Commercial plumbing permits and inspections are required.
Manufactured building used as a fixed vending cart	Must have stamp or insignia of approval issued by the State of Oregon.
Propane use	Portland Fire Bureau requires an annual permit.
Signs	Sign regulations apply and a sign permit is required.
Vending carts selling food	Require approval from the Multnomah County Health Department.

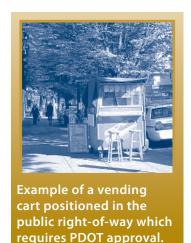
Location of vending carts

If you are considering a vending cart, your first step should be to decide on the location. The location of the vending cart determines which codes apply and what permits may be required.

The information in this handout is related to vending carts on private property.

If you are considering locating a vending cart in the public right-of-way (on the sidewalk), the Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) must approve this. To contact PDOT, call 503-823-7002, or visit their Web site at www.portlandonline.com/transportation for more information.

If you are considering a location for a vending cart on private property, check to see if the zoning on the site allows retail uses. To research zoning on a particular property, go to www.portlandmaps.com or call the Planning and Zoning information line at 503-823-7526.



Mobile vending carts

Mobile vending carts are on wheels. A building permit is not required for a mobile vending cart. A zoning permit may be required for development associated with the mobile vending cart such as changes to an existing parking area, landscaping, and drive-through facilities.

Vending carts that are 16 feet or less in length are regulated in the Zoning Code as Utility Trailers. Vending carts over 16 feet in length, with or without wheels, are considered Heavy Trucks by the Zoning Code, and are not allowed in certain zones. Call Planning and Zoning at 503-823-7526 for more information.

Fixed vending carts

Vending carts of any length that have had the wheels removed are considered buildings and are subject to Building Code and Zoning Code requirements. A fixed vending cart of any length is considered a building and is subject to setback, building coverage, ground floor windows, and other Zoning Code regulations.

A building permit is required for a fixed vending cart. Fixed vending carts are required to have a rest room facility located on the property, a person door at least 32 inches clear width and 80 inches high, an accessible ramp, and an approved permanent foundation.

If plumbing fixtures are included in the vending cart, a connection to the sanitary sewer and domestic water service will be necessary.

Additionally, electrical service, including permanently wiring the building and installing a permanently wired feeder next to the fixed vending cart will be required.

Drive-through vending carts

Drive-through vending carts of any length, both mobile and fixed, are regulated by the Zoning Code. Drivethrough facilities are only allowed in certain zones and plan districts in the City of Portland. Drive-through regulations can be found in Chapter 33.224 of the Zoning Code. You may contact the Planning and Zoning information line at 503-823-7526 for more information.

Public health requirements

Vending carts providing food or beverages for public consumption must receive approval from the Multnomah County Health Department. Multnomah County requires that all plumbing fixtures be connected to an approved drainage system (OSPSC 304.0, 305.0 and 713.0). Visit the Multnomah County Health Department Web site at www. mchealth.org or call 503-988-3816 for more information.

Utility services to vending carts

Propane use

Portland Fire Bureau requires an annual permit for vending carts that utilize propane for cooking.

Water service and /or sanitary sewer

A plumbing permit is required if a water service or sanitary sewer is installed. The plumbing must comply with the Oregon State Plumbing Speciality Code.

Electrical service

An electrical permit is required for electrical work done.

Manufactured buildings

Manufactured buildings that are being used as fixed vending carts must have a stamp or insignia of approval issued by the State of Oregon.

Vending cart signs

Vending carts are allowed one portable sign (Aboard) per cart. The sign must comply with Title 32.30.030, Portable Sign Regulations. For more information on registering a portable sign, please call 503-823-7526.



Vending carts are allowed one portable sign. Portable signs must be registered with the City.

Helpful Information

Bureau of Development Services

City of Portland, Oregon 1900 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201 www.portlandoregon.gov/bds

General Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm BDS main number: 503-823-7300

Permit information is available at the following location:

Development Services Center (First Floor) For Hours Call 503-823-7310 | Select option 1

Permitting Services (Second Floor) For Hours Call 503-823-7310 | Select option 4

Important Telephone Numbers

BDS main number	503-823-7300	
DSC automated information line	503-823-7310	
Building code information	503-823-1456	
Zoning code information	503-823-7526	
Permit information for electrical, mechanical,		
plumbing, sewer and sign	503-823-7363	
Fire Bureau, propane permitting	503-823-3712	
BDS 24-hour inspection request line	503-823-7000	
Portland License Bureau	503-823-5157	
City of PortlandTTY	503-823-6868	

For more detailed information regarding the bureau's hours of operation and available services;

Visit our Web site

www.portlandoregon.gov/bds