



**ALBEMARLE COUNTY
 MOBILE VENDOR POLICY**

A mobile vendor is a self-contained retail or service operation, located in a readily movable motorized wheeled or towed vehicle, used to store, prepare, display, or serve goods or food.

Before beginning operation of a mobile vending business in **Albemarle County**, vendors must obtain the necessary zoning, business license, and health department approvals, as applicable. Please review the following chart to see what licenses or permits apply to you.

Vendor Location	Zoning Clearance Required	Site Plan Compliance	Health Department Approval	Albemarle Business License
Commercial or Industrial Site for 4 hours or greater	Yes	Yes	If Preparing or Serving Food	Yes
Commercial or Industrial Site for less than 4 hours	Yes	No	If Preparing or Serving Food	Yes
Farm Winery, Brewery, or Distillery	Yes	No	If Preparing or Serving Food	Yes
County Park	Yes	No	If Preparing or Serving Food	Yes
Special or Temporary Event	No	No	If Preparing or Serving Food	Yes

Zoning Clearance

All mobile vendors based in Albemarle County must apply for a [Mobile Vendor Zoning Clearance](#). Mobile vendors that are associated with an approved restaurant or a permitted Special Event or Temporary Event use do not require a Zoning Clearance unless a site plan amendment is required (see below).

Mobile vendors who store the mobile unit at home when it is not in operation are also subject to the County’s home occupation regulations ([Sections 5.2](#) and [5.2A](#)); however, they do not need to obtain a home occupation clearance. A mobile unit may be stored at home, provided that it is parked off-street.

Site Plan Compliance

Operation on private commercial/industrial property for at least (4) hours at a time is subject to compliance with a site plan. The property owner shall update the property’s site plan to indicate the location of the mobile vendor use by completing a [Letter of Revision](#), or in some cases a [Site Plan Amendment](#), before a Zoning Clearance can be issued. If no site plan is required for a use or does not exist in the County records, then only a Mobile Vendor Zoning Clearance will be required.

Mobile Vendors requiring a site plan amendment or not entirely self-contained (i.e., utilizing a tent or booth) will be subject to [Architectural Review Board](#) regulations if located in an area visible from an [Entrance Corridor](#).

Owner’s Permission

Operation of a mobile vending unit on private property for any length of time requires permission from the property owner.

Health Department Approval

Each mobile food vendor shall provide a copy of a valid Mobile Food Establishment Permit issued by the Virginia Department of Health. No zoning clearance will be issued without prior approval from the Virginia Department of Health. To download their mobile unit guidelines and application form, go to the Health Department site for [Applying for Food Service Operation Permits](#).

For more information, contact the [Office of Environmental Health Division of the Blue Ridge Health District \(Virginia Department of Health\)](#).

Commissary Facility

Virginia Health Department regulations require that all food sold from a mobile unit must be prepared and stored either onboard the unit or in a Health Department-permitted commissary facility. Food may not be prepared or stored in a home kitchen. Contact the Virginia Department of Health for more information on regulations governing food preparation and storage.

Albemarle County Business License

All mobile vendors who operate in Albemarle County are required to apply for a business (peddler's) license. Contact the Albemarle County Business License Department at (434) 296-5852 for more information.

Hours of Operation

Hours of operation are not currently regulated; however, mobile vendors are expected to comply with noise regulations outlined in [Section 4.18.04](#) of the Zoning Ordinance.

Vending Location Information

Commercial/Industrial Sites

Mobile vendors may operate by-right in any commercial or industrial zoning district with the property owner's permission. Operation on commercial or industrial property for more than four (4) hours at a time is subject to compliance with a site plan (see above regarding Site Plan Compliance) and a Mobile Vendor Zoning Clearance. Mobile units must be no closer than 30 feet to any public right-of-way and 50 feet from any Residential or Rural Areas zoning district. Each vending site must provide at least 2 parking spaces. Visit the County's [Zoning Map](#) to determine the zoning of a particular parcel of interest.

Farm Winery/Farm Brewery/Farm Distillery

Mobile vendors may operate at a farm winery, farm brewery, or farm distillery with the owner's permission. Operation at one of these establishments for more than four (4) hours at a time may be approved after first obtaining a Mobile Vendor Zoning Clearance.

County Parks

Mobile vendors may operate at a County park with written permission from the Department of Parks & Recreation. For more information, contact the [Department of Parks & Recreation](#) at (434) 296 5844. Operation at a park for more than four (4) hours at a time may be approved after first obtaining a Mobile Vendor Zoning Clearance.

Special Events and Temporary Events

Mobile vendors may operate at a site that is subject to an approved Special Use Permit for Special Events, subject to the conditions of the Special Use Permit, or at a Temporary Event that has been issued a Zoning Clearance for the event; no Mobile Vendor Zoning Clearance is required.