



TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

Office of Economic Development

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1. Isn't this going to hurt existing restaurants?
 - a. Food trucks will not be allowed within 250' of an existing restaurant's entrance and can only be placed on commercial properties, not on the Village Green or on residential properties. The intention is to encourage patronage of New Milford stores and enterprises, not detract from them.
2. Aren't Food trucks dirty?
 - a. Food trucks undergo a rigorous pre-inspection and on-site inspection by our Health Department as part of a separate permitting process. For more information on safe food handling requirements, go to the Health Department's webpage: [Health Department](#), and select Temporary Food Service Application from the right hand navigation pane. You can also find information on the CT Department of Public Health Food Protection Program from the right hand navigation pane on our Health Department website.
3. Isn't allowing food trucks going to create traffic problems on Route 7?
 - a. Food truck permits will be limited to 20 per month, one per location and are issued to the host site property owners, not the food trucks. We are the only community to restrict the number of food truck location permits in a given time period.
4. How do we prevent/enforce illegal food trucks?
 - a. Enforcement will be by the New Milford Police Department. If you have a complaint of what you believe to be a food truck that does not have a permit, call the NMPD. Permits are revocable at will (immediately) and subject the commercial property owner to a fine of \$200 per day for violation.
5. Why is the town charging so much?
 - a. The Town is charging a permit fee to property owners and there is a separate Health Department license fee. These fees are to defray the cost of the required health inspections and permitting process so that this ordinance does not cost the taxpayers any money. Our fees are in line with neighboring communities such as Danbury, Stonington and West Hartford, and are lower than some communities such as New Haven, Norwalk, Fairfield and New Britain. We will re-evaluate the process and its costs in six months and make modifications as appropriate.
6. Won't food trucks cause unsafe situations in parking lots and along roadways?
 - a. Part of the permitting process is a verification that where the food truck is intended to be parked does not impair sight lines nor impair ingress and egress from the host site.

Food trucks are NOT permitted on roadways – only on the property of the host and during their normal business hours.

7. Won't this negatively impact other stores parking?
 - a. Because the permit is issued to the property owner, and not the stores leasing space, only one food truck will be permitted per commercial property. For example, only one food truck would be allowed at Fairfield Plaza. (none would be allowed at Lore's Plaza because they have 2 existing food establishments, one on each end) A food truck generally will need to use only 2 parking spaces to operate. The specific location of the truck is approved as part of the permit review and cannot block travel lanes or loading zones
8. How will the permits be determined?
 - a. Permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis at the Mayor's office to be effective on the first of every month. To receive a permit, an application must be filled out completely and correctly. If the food truck already has an approved license from the Health Department a copy should be attached. Review includes signoff by the Fire Marshal, signoff by the Mayor that the intended location is not within 250' of a permanent, immobile restaurant or any other type of fixed food service operation, and signoff by the New Milford Police Department that the intended location does not impair sight lines or prevent ingress/egress of traffic.
9. How will garbage be controlled?
 - a. Portable trash receptacles shall be furnished by the food truck and shall be removed from the premises each day.
10. Won't the town be flooded with food trucks like Danbury is?
 - a. It is the intention that by limiting the number of food trucks and issuing permits to the property owners, not stores, and requiring food trucks to be on a commercial property that this will not happen.
11. Why only one food truck per location?
 - a. This ordinance is not intended to cover food truck "events", but give commercial properties the ability to enhance the shopper's or patron's experience and stimulate our local economy.
12. Why is a pre-inspection required?
 - a. Pre-inspections are necessary as part of the Health Department licensing process to ensure each food truck has the required facilities and equipment and that operators have the required food safety knowledge in accordance with the CT Public Health Code.
13. How do I know I won't get sick? How do I know that food safety standards are being met for food trucks?
 - a. Our Health Department will perform food safety inspections and follow the procedures and standards that are required of food trucks. You can find safety inspection scores on their webpage at: [Food Inspection Scores](#), select Food Inspection Scores on the right hand navigation pane.
14. Why do they have to be associated with a business?

- a. The intention of the ordinance is to encourage patronage of New Milford stores and enterprises by allowing foodstuffs to be conveniently available to patrons of commercial entities while on premises. By associating the food truck with a commercial property owner, we are preventing food trucks from randomly parking on roadways and in parking lots where they may create a traffic and safety problem.
15. How many food trucks are allowed?
- a. One food truck is allowed per commercial property.
16. What is the difference between this ordinance and food trucks allows by Parks and Rec?
- a. This ordinance addresses food trucks and trailers ONLY on private commercial property, NOT on Town owned land or at any of the public parks and facilities. The process to vend food at festivals, public events or on Town owned property is not changing. Permits to vend at Public Parks will continue to be managed through the existing annual bidding process. Permits for special events held on public property will continue to be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. All Parks and Recreation Permits are reviewed and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
17. Will food trucks still be permitted for private events?
- a. Yes, food trucks are allowed for private events on private property. For food trucks for temporary events open to the public, the Health Department issues Temporary Food Service Permits. The Temporary Food Service Permit guidelines are available on the Town website and there is a \$50 per event fee. [Temporary Food Service Application](#)
18. Do food trucks have to leave every day?
- a. Yes, the ordinance includes the stipulation that food trucks shall not be stored at the premises on which it operates.
19. Does this ordinance apply to the Elephant's Trunk?
- a. The ordinance does not provide for any changes to the current operation of the Elephant's Trunk.

FAQ's as of August 21, 2019. This may be edited and improved as the Food Truck Ordinance goes into effect. KGP