



Urban Harvest

Growing gardens. Enriching lives.

Licenses for Value-Added Vendors

FOOD SERVICE MANAGERS / FOOD HANDLERS LICENSE

This license or certification is required for anyone who is preparing and selling foods. The Health Department offers a class <<<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Food/foodmanagers.html>>>, but there are also a number of classes available online. The class should take no more than a week to complete.

CERTIFIED KITCHEN PERMIT

Anyone who prepares or processes food must do so in a certified kitchen. This includes something as simple as cutting a piece of fruit. The certification should be displayed in plain view. Certified kitchens located in Houston are certified by the Houston Health Department. Kitchens located outside of Houston are certified either by the county or the state.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS LICENSE

This license is required of anyone who packages food to be sold rather than preparing foods to be eaten on-site. This license is obtained through the state << <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/foods/foodmangen.shtm>>> and will take about 6-8 weeks to be processed.

TEMPORARY FOOD PERMIT

This permit is required for anyone who is preparing food to be consumed on site. This includes something as simple as cutting a tomato during the farmers market to make a salad or serving hot soup made off-site at temperature, etc. You may find a link to the PDF of the Temporary Food Permit Application on the Health Department website << <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Food/index.html>>>, by clicking on “Temporary Food Establishment.” The permit costs \$70 per market and maybe shared by other vendors who are serving foods to be consumed on site. It is preferable to get the permit at least one week before the market.

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