

# Outside Beverage Bars

## Background:

The City of Houston Food Ordinance requires that all food service establishments be completely enclosed in a building meeting specific criterion. Historically, in some jurisdictions, outdoor beverage bars have been approved on a conditional basis. Due to the low risk involved in beverage preparation and service, this type of establishment has gained widespread acceptance. On January 1, 2008, outdoor beverage bars, contiguous with a fully enclosed food establishment and some free-standing beverage bars, will be exempt from the enclosure requirements in the City of Houston. The exemption is conditional provided that the requirements set forth in the following document are met.

## Definitions:

**Attached Outdoor Beverage Bar-** A permanently installed outdoor beverage bar that is attached to the main enclosed establishment and has a solid self closing door within the beverage bar leading into the main establishment. When the outside beverage bar is enclosed, it becomes part of the main enclosed establishment.

**Beverage-** Any non-alcoholic liquid for drinking, including water.

**Free Standing Outdoor Beverage Bar-** A permanently installed outdoor beverage bar that is not connected to the main building by a door. When the beverage bar is enclosed, it is not part of the main enclosed establishment.

**Full Service Beverage Bar-** A beverage bar that serves beverages in the original manufacturer's container, single service containers or multiuse glassware.

**Outdoor Beverage Bar-** When in operation, it is an unenclosed facility operated on the same premises, in conjunction with a fully enclosed, permitted food establishment. Outdoor beverage bars are limited to the preparation and service of beverages only.

**Permanently Installed Outdoor Beverage Bar-** An outdoor beverage bar that has permanently installed equipment and facilities.

**Portable Outdoor Beverage Bar-** An outdoor beverage bar that is readily movable for cleaning and storage.

**Restricted Beverage Bar-** A beverage bar that only serves beverages in the original manufacturer's container.

**Single Service Beverage Bar-** A beverage bar that serves beverages in the original manufacturer's container or in single service containers.

### **Structural Requirements:**

#### **Portable Outdoor Beverage Bar**

- Restricted beverage bar only
- Does not require plans
- Must be able to demonstrate that the beverage bar is portable.
- Only products for immediate use are brought outside.

#### **Permanent Outdoor Beverage Bar**

- May be a restricted, single service or full service beverage bar (attached or free standing)
- Construction
  - Plans and specification must be submitted prior to construction for review and approval
  - Requires a pre-opening inspection for approval prior to operating
  - Floors must be constructed of a smooth durable material and maintained in good repair
  - Walls-
    - Provide light color FRP, ceramic tile, or stainless steel under/behind and behind all bar equipment and sinks.
    - When not in operation or during inclement weather, the structure must be able to be completely enclosed. The enclosure must meet code as being smooth, easily cleanable, and non-absorbent, insect and rodent proof and must protect the facility from inclement weather and other outdoor contaminants.
  - ⊖ Overhead protection-Ceilings or roofs must protect from all overhead contaminants. Ceilings or roofs must extend over the entire work area at all times during operation and must be insect and rodent proof.
  - ⊖ Hand washing sink-Required in single service and full service beverage bars. Used for hand washing only. Hand washing sinks must be provided with hot and cold running water
  - ⊖ Dump sink-Required in single service and full service beverage bars. Dump sinks shall be provided with hot and cold running water.
  - ⊖ Lighting- A minimum of 20 foot candles (220 Lux) shall be provided during operation.

- Must meet all other departmental requirements (structural, plumbing, electrical, etc.).
- Food protection and Operating Requirements
  - The scope of food preparation is limited to beverage preparation.
  - Non-alcoholic frozen dessert machines are prohibited
  - Beverages prepared in a blender are prohibited
  - Ice for human consumption must be manufactured within the main establishment or provided by an outside supplier. Ice must be protected from contamination by covered, closed containers at all times when not in use.
  - Ice manufacturing machines are prohibited in outdoor beverage bars.
  - Suitable scoops must be provided for all ice storage bins
  - Condiments for beverages may not be prepared in the outdoor beverage bar. They must be prepared within the enclosed establishment.
  - All condiment bins must be protected by closed, tight fitting lids, when not in use.
  - All glassware and utensils must be protected from contamination at all times.
  - The outdoor beverage bar may not operate under conditions in which beverages, utensils, or equipment may become contaminated or adulterated, such as in times of inclement weather.

**Location:**

**Attached Outdoor beverage bar**

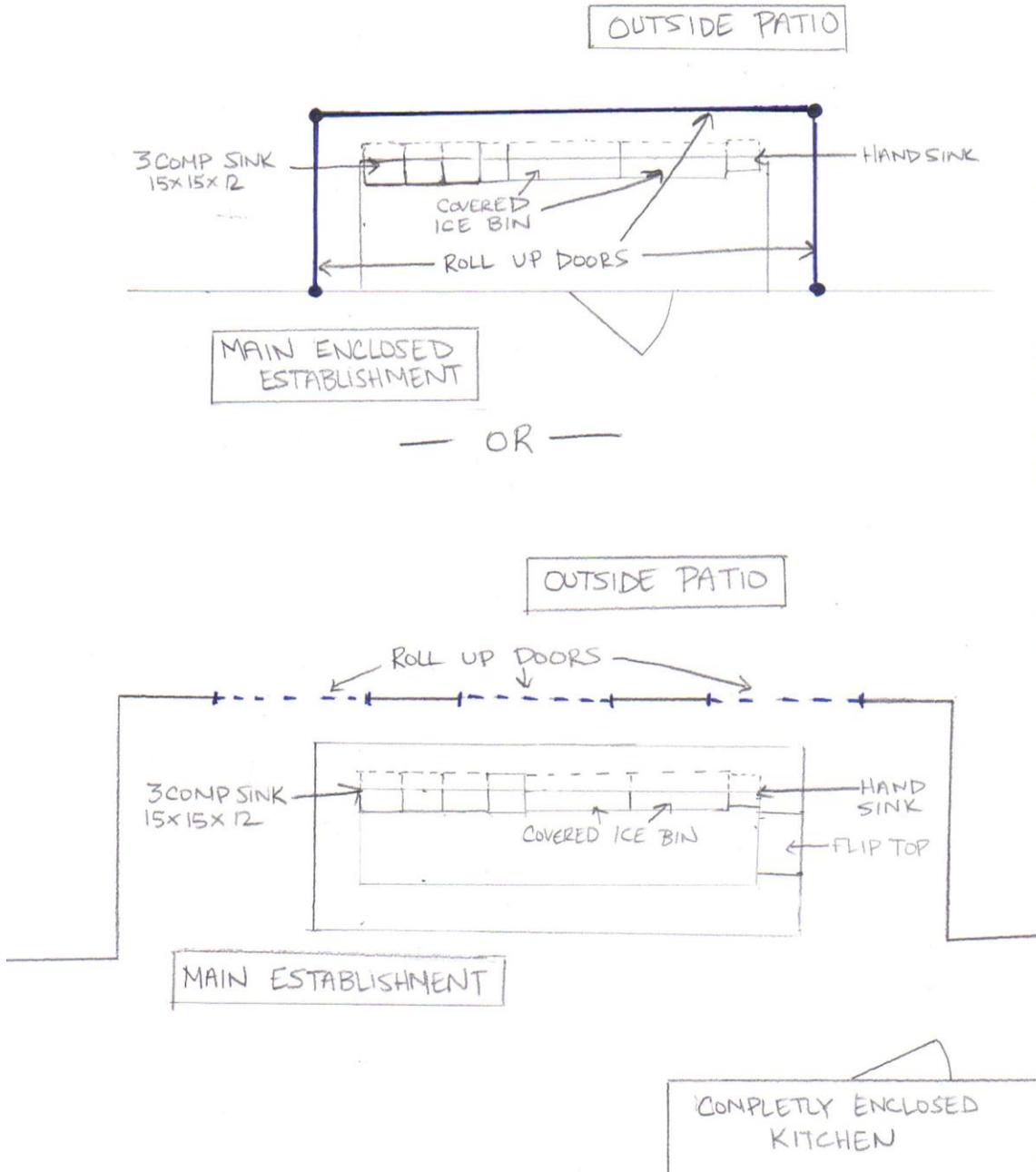
- Attached outdoor beverage bars must have direct access to the main enclosed establishment
- Attached outdoor beverage bars may provide beverages in the manufacturer's original container, in single service containers or in multiuse glassware.
- Utensil washing may be done only when the beverage bar is completely enclosed.
- Dish machines and 3-compartment sinks are permitted.

**Free-standing Outdoor beverage bar**

- May provide beverages in the manufacturer's original container, in single service items or in multiuse glassware.
- Utensil washing is not permitted at free-standing outdoor beverage bars. All glassware must be brought into the main enclosed establishment for washing.
- Dish machines and 3 compartment sinks are prohibited at free-standing outdoor beverage bars.

**Example floor plans:**

ATTACHED BAR EXAMPLE FLOOR PLANS



# FREE-STANDING BAR - EXAMPLE FLOOR PLANS

