



Bureau of Consumer Health
8000 N. Stadium Dr. 1st floor
Houston, TX 77054
Office: 832-393-5100
Fax: 832-393-5208

Ice Cream Trucks, Tricycles, and Push Carts: Restricted Mobile Food Units

How to get a permit (medallion):

Bring unit to the Environmental Inspection Center, 7427 Park Place Blvd. 77087 on a Tuesday or Thursday, 7am-10am. Business name required on 2 sides in letters at least 3 inches tall and must have room on one side for the (8.5" x 11") mobile food unit medallion to be affixed. Bring picture I.D. (Texas Driver's License or official I.D. are preferred).

Trucks must have current State of Texas vehicle operational tags/stickers; proof of current liability insurance.

Rules for Operating Push Carts

Packaged frozen desserts (popsicles and ice-cream bars) may be displayed and sold on sidewalks from push carts. No other foods may be sold on street or sidewalk in Houston. The cart size must not exceed four feet in width, eight feet in length, and eight feet in height (including shading umbrella). The bottom of the cart must be one foot from the ground.

Sec. 40-9.1

"Frozen desserts may be sold upon the sidewalks from non-motorized push cart mobile food units. Each push cart mobile food unit must be operated pursuant to a medallion issued under section 20-37 of this Code....The provisions of this section do not authorize the operation of a push cart mobile food unit upon the sidewalks in a park as defined in article IX of chapter 32 of this Code or within the "theater/entertainment district," as defined in article XI of this chapter, unless any additional permits, concessions or licenses that are required for operation in those areas are also obtained in full compliance with the aforesaid articles."

Note: Operating in a City of Houston park requires an additional permit from Parks and Recreation Department.

Call 311

Rules for Operating Tricycles:

Sec 40-9

A person may sell frozen desserts from sanitary vehicles approved and licensed by the health officer pursuant to this Code, and such other refrigerated vehicles from which are sold or dispensed frozen dessert products that are fully wrapped, enclosed and contained in individual wrappers or containers, provided that such vehicles shall be operated and maintained in full compliance with the health, food, drug and sanitary provisions of this Code and the applicable statutes of the state, and provided further that prior to making a sale or dispensing such frozen dessert products the driver of such vehicle shall drive to the side of the street, as close as practicable to the curb, and if there is no curb, then as close as practicable to the hedge of the paved portion or the edge of the portion used for vehicular traffic of said road, and the driver shall stop, stand or park such vehicle in full compliance with all applicable ordinances of the city and statutes of the state, and particularly ordinances governing the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles, and such vehicle shall remain so stopped, standing or parked for no longer than is necessary to make the immediate sale or to dispense such frozen dessert products.



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PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE SALE OF ICE CREAM PRODUCTS FROM VEHICLES UPON THE STREETS OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Per Section 40-9, City Ordinance:

1. **CAUTION CHILDREN** sign must be mounted on top of vehicle. The letters are required to be block style BLACK color of at least 6" height and ½" width. The sign's background color must be YELLOW.
 2. **WARNING LIGHTS** must be mounted on each end of the caution children sign. **YELLOW** flashing lights are required for front of the vehicle. **RED** flashing lights are required for rear of the vehicle.
 3. The sign and warning lights must be visible from front and rear.
 4. The **BUSINESS NAME** shall be permanently affixed, easily identifiable, and prominently displayed on 2 sides of the ice cream truck (vehicle) in letters not less than 3" high.
 5. **A CURRENT and VALID MEDALLION** issued by the Houston Health and Human Services Department. The medallion must be renewed every year and is non-transferable.
 6. The current cost of the medallion is **\$646.24** per year per unit. (*The medallion fee will be subject to increase on January 1st of each year.) Personal checks are not accepted. To obtain a medallion, you must bring the ice cream truck (vehicle) to the Department's office for inspection and approval.
 7. Inspections are conducted Tuesday and Thursday between 7:00 am and 10:00 am. Please bring the following with you: (Driver's license, proof of liability insurance). Vehicle must have current state inspection and vehicle registration stickers.
 8. **Per City Ordinance Section 40-8(c): Only packaged ice cream products from an approved source may be sold from the unit, and Section 40-9(a): You may remain stopped only long enough to make the immediate sale of the products. You may not park and wait for customers at any location.**
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INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED AT:
7427 Park Place Blvd.
Houston, TX 77087

TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION:

PLEASE CALL 832- 393-5063 OR EMAIL LARRY.GOODMAN@HOUSTONTX.GOV

