

MID BERGEN REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION

President

Paul Viola

Health Officer

James Fedorko

60 Elizabeth Street, Garfield, New Jersey, 07026

Phone: 551-956-5201 Fax: 973-772-7721

<https://midbergen-regionalhealth.org/>

Member Towns:

*Bogota, Englewood Cliffs, Leonia
New Milford, River Edge*

Contracting Towns:

*Bergenfield, Carlstadt, Cliffside Park,
Closter, Garfield, Hasbrouck Heights,
Ramsey, Ridgefield Park, Tenafly, Wallington*



Retail Food Establishment Guidelines

Floor Plans

1. A copy of the floor plans and specifications must be submitted to the Building Department AND to the Health Department.

Floor plans are required when:

1. There is a new construction of a retail food establishment;
 2. There is a conversion of an existing structure for use as a retail food establishment;
 3. There is remodeling of a retail food establishment or a change of type of retail food establishment; or
 4. The health authority determines that plans and specifications are necessary to ensure compliance with these rules.
2. The health inspector will notify the business owner within 30 business days after receiving the plans to inform you if your plans were approved or if changes are needed.
3. The plans and specifications for a retail food establishment shall include:
- a. Written Business Plan including
 - i. Nature of the business & hours of operation
 - ii. The intended menu
 - iii. The anticipated volume of food to be stored, prepared, and sold or served;
 - iv. The flow of food detailed according to the menu
 - b. HACCP Plan submittal is required for any specialized process or other method determined by the health authority to require approval. (i.e. – smoking as a preservation, curing, acidification, reduced oxygen packaging)
 - c. The proposed layout, mechanical schematics, construction materials, and finish schedules;
 - d. The proposed equipment types, manufacturers, model numbers, locations, dimensions, performance capacities, and installation specifications;
 - e. Proposed program of training for the persons in charge and food employees pertaining to protecting public health and the safety and integrity of food; and
 - f. Other information that may be required by the health authority for the proper review of the proposed construction, conversion or modification, and procedures for operating a retail food establishment.

NOTE: If you will be operating a wholesale food establishment, **you must obtain approval and a license** from the NJ Department of Health & Senior Services, Food & Drug Safety Program by calling (609) 588-3123.

Equipment in Retail Food Establishments

Hand washing Sink

All facilities are required to have hand washing sinks in every food prep area and dishwashing areas. Handwash sinks must be easily accessible for employees and equipped with hot and cold water, soap, disposable towels and an employee must wash hands sign. Hand sink may only be used for hand washing.

3-Compartment Sink

A 3-compartment sink is required in a facility that sells or serves unpackaged food. A 3-compartment sink is recommended to ensure the largest equipment can be submerged and washed adequately. This station must also contain an approved sanitizer, corresponding sanitizing test strips, and drain boards to air dry equipment. An air gap is required at the three-compartment sink.

Food Preparation Sink

A separate sink is needed for the processing of produce and other foods. Processing can include washing, soaking, thawing, and using ice baths for cooling. An air gap is required at the food preparation sink.

Utility (Mop or Service) Sinks

All facilities are required to have a utility sink designated for cleaning mops and tools, and for disposal of mop water. A curbed sink is the ideal option since they make it easier to dump mop water and are a good storage spot for the mop bucket when not in use. A utility/mop sink can not be located near the food prep area and must be located on the main floor.

Hot and Cold Holding Equipment

When determining the size and type of refrigeration units, consider the food preparation and assembly processes. Plan for enough hot-holding units to store all hot foods during peak demand. Plan for enough refrigeration to accommodate adequate space for the proper cooling of food items in addition to the storage of cold foods.

Ice Machines

Ice used as FOOD or a cooling medium shall be made from DRINKING WATER. An air gap is required for the liquid waste drain. Ice scoops may be stored with handles up in a clean and protected container.

Grease Interceptor (Grease Trap)

A grease trap is a device that is attached to sinks and/or drains to prevent fats, oils, and grease (FOG) from flowing to the sewer system. When installed, they must be easily accessible for cleaning.

Ventilation

Sufficient ventilation must be installed to keep rooms free of excessive heat, steam, condensation, vapors, obnoxious odors, smoke, and fumes.

Preparation Tables

Preparation tables must be smooth and easily cleanable, tight-jointed, and have moisture-proof surfaces. Cutting boards must be made of approved materials.

Food Shields

Display stands, buffets, and salad bars must have food shields to prevent contamination by customers. Food shields are intended to intercept the direct line between the customer's mouth and the food being displayed to prevent contamination by the customer.

Dry Storage

Enough designated space must be available for the storage of food, dishes, and equipment, including bulk foods, cans, and other items. All food items must be stored at least 6" off floor to prevent contamination.

Chemical Storage

Chemicals must be stored below and/or away from food items, equipment, and utensils to prevent contamination.

Employee Area

Lockers, shelving, or a designated area must be provided for employee belongings. Personal belongings such as coats, purses, and phones cannot be kept in food areas.

Lighting

Lighting must be bright enough to allow for safe work conditions and to facilitate cleaning. It must also be shielded when it is above food or food preparation areas to prevent contamination in the event of breakage. Lighting is typically measured in "foot candles". 50 foot candles of light are required in all food preparation and ware washing areas.

Surfaces

All floors, walls, and ceilings in food areas (service, storage, or preparation) must be smooth and easily cleanable. Carpet is prohibited in the food preparation and ware washing areas. Every facility must submit a finish schedule with the plan review. Below are approved surfaces that are commonly used.

- Floors: quarry tile, ceramic tile, sealed concrete, poured epoxy
- Walls: stainless steel, fiberglass reinforced plastic, glossy painted drywall, painted concrete block
- Ceilings: vinyl coated drop ceiling tiles, glossy painted drywall
- Base Coving: tile, rubber

Toilet Facilities

Conveniently located toilets must be provided that are accessible to employees and patrons without allowing patrons access to food preparation areas, storage areas, or ware washing or utensil storage areas. Handwash sinks must be equipped with hot and cold water, soap, disposable towels/air drier, and an employee must wash hands sign.

Required Food Manager Certification

The State of NJ requires that **EVERY Risk Type 3** retail food establishment have a Certified Food Manager. The food manager must attend an accredited certifying program that offers the food safety certification examination.

Below you will find a list of approved exam providers. Contact the exam provider of your choice to locate a class near you.

360training.com

Phone: 1-888-395-6920

<http://www.learn2serve.com/new-jersey-food-safety-certification>

National Registry of Food Safety Professionals

Phone: 1-800-446-0257

www.nrfsp.com

National Restaurant Association- ServSafe

Business Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
800-765-2122

www.servsafe.com

Above training/State Food Safety

Phone (801)-494-1416

Email support@statefoodsafety.com

<https://www.statefoodsafety.com/>

The Always Food Safe Company

help@alwaysfoodsafecom.com

<https://alwaysfoodsafecom.com/en/>

Thompson Pro-metric

Phone: 1-800-624-2736

www.prometric.com/foodsafety

Bergen County Department of Health Services

Contact: Kelly Dabal

Phone: 201-634-2780

foodsafety@co.bergen.nj.us

<https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/food-safety-program>

Food Handler Certification

In addition to every establishment having a Certified Food Manager, kitchen staff shall be certified as Food Handlers as well. Not only shall kitchen staff be trained in food safety as it relates to their assigned duties by their Food Manager, but they also must be aware of the guidelines and requirements set forth in Chapter 24 of the New Jersey Sanitary Code.

CO/CCO Inspection

After all construction/installations are complete and in full compliance with the Rules and Regulations, a complete application for a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or Continued Certificate of Occupancy (CCO) must be submitted to the Building Department.

Pre-Opening Inspection:

The Retail Food Establishment must obtain a final inspection from the Health Department prior to opening to the public. **You must schedule an inspection 72 hours prior to your proposed opening to the public.**

Scheduling a Pre-Operational Inspection:

- Complete a Retail Food License Application at the Health Department and submit:
- A copy of the CO/CCO from the building department
- Contracts based on needs of the establishment;
 - Garbage and Recycling
 - Extermination
 - Exhaust hood cleaning service
 - Grease Trap cleaning services
- Copies of all Certified Food Managers and food handlers.

Once the application has been submitted, the Bergen County Health inspector will contact you to schedule an inspection. Please allow at least 72 hours to your proposed opening date.

During the inspections:

- Fully Operational Equipment: All refrigeration units must be fully operational and be able to maintain the required cold holding temperature. Dish washer machines must provide adequate sanitizer concentration and/or reach minimum final sanitizing rinse temperature.
- Test Equipment: All required test equipment must be provided, including accurate thermometers for refrigeration units, hot holding units, and mechanical dish machines; an accurate metal stem food thermometer with a 0°F to 220°F temperature range; and appropriate test kits for sanitizer.
- Operational Sink Areas: All hand washing sinks must be provided with hot and cold water, soap, paper towels, and a trash can.
- Clean and Operational: Establishment must be clean and operational prior to opening to the public.

Upon completion of the final inspection, you will be granted approval or denial to operate. Once approved, you will receive a "Satisfactory" placard that must be posted in your establishment.