

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CHILDCARE CENTERS APPLYING FOR A FOOD LICENSE

When does a child care center need a food license?

In most cases, if you are providing a meal, snack, or beverage to the children in your center, you will need to obtain a food license.

How do I obtain a food license for my childcare center?

You will need to contact the health department for an inspection. You may also need to complete and submit a plan review application along with a fee. Please call the plan review coordinator at (614) 645-6191 for more information.

What equipment is required for a childcare center to get a food service license?

Childcare centers will need to have a three compartment sink, a separate hand washing sink, and a mop sink for disposing of mop water. All food-related equipment must be commercial (approved by recognized food equipment testing agency such as the National Sanitation Foundation). Household microwaves, stoves, refrigerators, etc. are not allowed.

If all of my utensils and dishes are disposable, do I still need a three compartment sink?

Yes, any childcare center applying for a food license will be required to install a three compartment sink.

Can I use my mop sink for a hand sink?

No, hand washing sinks should be used for hand washing only. There must be a separate utility sink to get rid of mop water.

What kind of food safety training do I need?

There should be at least one staff person at the childcare center that has received Person In Charge food safety training at all times. Columbus Public Health offers classes monthly and a copy of the training schedule can be obtained at <http://publichealth.columbus.gov/food-protection-for-business.aspx>.

3 COMPARTMENT SINK

Installed 4" off the wall with brackets



Continued on next page...

If I'm using a caterer will I still need to take the food safety training?

Yes, you will still need to have a staff member that has completed the Person In Charge food safety training even if you are using a caterer. You will also need to obtain a copy of the food service license to show the food safety inspector. A copy of this food license should be kept on site.

I want to be able to offer fresh fruits and vegetables at my child care center. What are my options?

A childcare center has the option to purchase fruits and vegetables that are already pre-washed and cut. If your center wants to wash and cut fruit at your center, you will need to make sure your center is licensed to do that and that the center can safely wash fruits and vegetables by installing a food preparation sink.

This childcare center had a license in the past and doesn't have the required equipment installed, why must I install it now?

The center may have been "grandfathered in" under the previous owner. When you take ownership, you are responsible for making sure the center is brought up to code by making any necessary changes or adding any additional equipment.

What will be the fee for the food license?

The fee for the food service license varies. It is based on your menu in addition to other things such as who is providing the food and who is serving the food. Consult with the plan review coordinator or food inspector about what your license fee would be based on your plans.

How do I qualify for an exemption from needing a food license?

Exemptions are granted on a case by case basis. Please note that exemption from food licensing is rare and in most cases you will need to get a food license.

Still have questions?

Contact the plan review coordinator at (614) 645-6191.

FOOD PREPARATION SINK

