

Food Service Pathways

Food Service Pathway	Where can I make my food?	What food can I make?	Who can I sell my food to?	Where can I sell my food?	Can I offer samples?	Do I need to submit plan review?	Is my food service inspected?	Do I need a Certified Food Protection Manager?
Wholesale Food License	At your approved wholesale food establishment.	Any food type.	To third parties for resale (i.e. at grocery stores and restaurants).	Directly from your licensed location, or through deliveries.	Sampling events are allowed.	Yes, and process and label review with Montana DPHHS.	Yes, these establishments have regular inspections.	Yes
Retail Food License (Permanent or Mobile)	At your approved retail food establishment.	Any food type.	Directly to consumers; no third-party resales allowed (i.e. at grocery stores and restaurants).	Directly from your licensed location/mobile, or through deliveries.	Can offer samples at the licensed location/mobile.	Yes		Yes, unless all pre-packaged food.
Temporary Food Service Permit	In your approved commissary kitchen or at the event.	Any food type.	Directly to consumers; no third-party resales allowed (i.e. at grocery stores and restaurants)..	Permits are only approvable for events.	Can offer samples at the event.	Yes	Yes, TFSs may be inspected at an event.	Yes, unless serving only beverages, shelf-stable foods, or commercially pre-cooked & pre-packaged foods.
Cottage Food Registration	Only in your registered home kitchen. No event prep is allowed.	Only foods that don't require refrigeration.	Directly to consumers; no third-party resales allowed (i.e. at grocery stores and restaurants).	Face-to-face sales within Montana. Can arrange pick up, deliver personally, or set up a booth. No event required.	Can offer samples.	Yes	No regular inspections, but Missoula Public Health may ensure vendors are meeting the requirements of these pathways.	No
Montana Local Food Choice Act	In a home kitchen. No event prep or packaging is allowed.	Only foods with no meat, as defined by DOL.	Directly to consumers; no third-party resales allowed (i.e. at grocery stores and restaurants).	From your home, at an event, farmer's market/farm stand, or arranged pick up/delivery.	Samples allowed if prepped ahead of time at home. No onsite prep is allowed, even to sample.	No		
Farmer's Market & Farm Stands	In a home kitchen. No event prep or packaging is allowed.	Only foods with no meat, as defined by DOL.	Homemade food directly to consumers; fresh produce can be sold to consumers or to resellers.	At the market/stand.	You can offer samples of foods that don't require refrigeration. Samples of foods that need to be refrigerated must be pre-packaged at home.	No		