

Food Service Pathways

	Food Service Pathway	Where can I make my food?	What can I make?	Who can I sell my food to?	Where can I sell my food?	Samples?	Plan Review?	Inspections?	CFPM?
Licensed and Inspected Food Service	Wholesale Food License	You may make food only at your approved wholesale food establishment.	Any food type.	To retail food establishments: restaurants, grocery stores, food trucks, bars, etc.	You may sell from your approved wholesale food establishment.	Sampling events/booths are allowed. Wholesale rules specify food safety rules for these events.	Yes, and process and label review with Montana DPHHS.	Yes, these establishments have regular inspections.	Yes
	Retail Food License	You may make food only at your approved retail food establishment.	Any food type.	Directly to consumer; no reselling or 3 rd party sales.	You may sell from your approved retail food establishment.	Can offer samples. Must follow all regular food safety rules.	Yes		Yes, unless all pre-packaged food.
	Temporary Food Service (TFS) Permit	You may make food in your approved commissary kitchen or at the event.	Any food type.	Directly to consumer, no reselling or 3 rd party sales.	At an event or celebration.	Can offer samples. Must follow all regular food safety rules.	Yes	Yes, TFSs may be inspected at an event.	Yes, unless serving non-TCS foods, beverages, or commercially pre-cooked & pre-packaged foods.
Exempt Food Service	Cottage Food Registration	You make and package food only in your registered home kitchen. No event prep is allowed.	Non-potentially hazardous foods.	Directly to consumer, no reselling or 3 rd party sales.	Face-to-face sales within Montana. Can set up a booth, arrange pick up or deliver personally. No event required.	Can offer samples.	Yes	No regular inspections, but we may discuss the requirements of these exemptions and ensure vendors are meeting them.	No
	Montana Local Food Choice Act (MLFCA)	You make food in any home kitchen. No event prep is allowed.	Only foods with no meat, as defined by DOL.	Direct to an informed consumer, not reselling or 3 rd party sales.	From your home, at a traditional community event, farmer's market/farm stand, or arranged pick up/delivery.	Samples only allowed if prepped ahead of time at home. No onsite prep is allowed, even to sample.	No		
	Farmer's Market/ Farm Stands	You make and package food in a home kitchen. No event prep is allowed.	Non-potentially hazardous foods.	Homemade products directly to consumer, agricultural products can be sold to consumers or for re-selling.	At the market/stand.	Can offer samples.	No		