

Minimum Commercial Kitchen Requirements

Montezuma County and the State of Colorado uses the 2017 FDA Food Code (<https://www.fda.gov/food/fda-food-code/food-code-2017>) in Colorado and chapters 4, 5, and 6 cover a majority of the information pertaining to designing a kitchen. Chapter 4 begins on page 143.

In general, minimum facility requirements include the following:

- 3-compartment sink with drain board. (Or an industrial dishwasher. I generally ask that folks install both. If you opt for a dishwasher without the three basins sink and the dishwasher goes down, the facility will have to close)
- 1-hand sink.
- 1-mop sink/cleaning sink with backflow prevention or indirect plumbing connection (this would pertain to a produce sink as well)
- 1-produce/prep sink (Recommended but not required).
- Appropriate waste disposal/septic system
- Clean, smooth, washable surfaces
- Hot water tank capable of supplying hot water to all sinks and dishwashers
- Toilet within close proximity with appropriate hand washing
- A type 2 hood is required for all kitchens producing grease vapors
- 1-grease trap rated for the size of your kitchen and installed per plumbing code

You will need to talk with your municipalities fire marshal and building inspector to correctly install appropriate grease hoods, fire suppression, grease traps and other modifications for your building. If you live outside of one of the municipalities (in the county) you may still wish to consult with the fire marshal or building inspector nearest your location to ensure you are still doing your due diligence for safety.

Other requirements for a retail food establishment include a [food manager certificate](#) for full service restaurants and you will also need a CO Sales Tax License: <https://www.colorado.gov/revenueonline/>.

Additional information on operating a food establishment can be found at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/food-safety-and-licensing>. Or by reading the Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Requirements.

A plan review will need to be turned in for the type of business you are wishing to operate:

- [Permanent Fixed Location](#) (traditional restaurant or “brick and mortar”).
- [Mobile truck, trailer, or cart](#)

***Please note: Montezuma County and the State of Colorado does not typically issue a license for any “tent and table” operations. However, if you are looking to operate as such for a temporary event or fundraiser please fill out the [Temporary Food Vendor Application](#).