



GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
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What is a commissary?

A commissary, or base of operation, is an approved (licensed) food service establishment where food is stored, prepared, portioned, or packaged for service elsewhere. As with other food establishments, a commissary cannot be in a private residence.

Why do I need a commissary?

Certain food establishments, such as mobile food units and caterers, are required by the food code (WAC 246-215) to have and use an approved commissary as a part of their operation, in order to meet all the facility and equipment requirements of the food code.

Types of commissaries:

There are two types of commissaries, a “*food preparation*” commissary and a “*storage-only*” commissary.

A “*food preparation*” commissary, also known as a “commissary kitchen” is a commissary that is used to prepare foods, such as washing and cutting produce, marinating meats, assembling sandwiches, cooking, baking, or any other task that requires handling of exposed food.

A “*food preparation*” commissary must provide the following:

- A handwashing sink
- A three-compartment sink for dish and utensil washing
- A food preparation sink
- Means for cleaning and sanitizing the mobile unit
- An employee use restroom
- Designated space for storage of freezers and/or refrigeration units for cold holding potentially hazardous foods and/or cooling of hot foods if needed
- Equipment available for cooking by approved methods if needed
- Designated space for dry good and paper good storage
- Designated site for proper chemical storage
- Effective measures to prevent entrance and harborage of pests
- Designated parking site for the mobile unit when not in operation
- An approved water supply system
- An approved sewage disposal system
- An approved garbage disposal system

A “*storage-only*” commissary must provide a space for storage of packaged foods, paper goods, chemicals, extra equipment, etc. No handling of exposed foods is allowed. An example of a “*storage-only*” commissary is a room inside a business with shelves for dry good storage, a refrigerator and freezer.