

Bake Sale Guidelines

The following are guidelines only and do not supersede the requirements with Title 37, Chapter 110, Subchapter 2, ARM.

Bake sales are typically a one-time, one-location event in which cakes, cookies, fruit pies, or similar low risk foods are sold to the public. Bakes sales normally do not require a permit. However, there are some important food safety precautions to follow in order to prevent food borne illness.

Residential kitchens are not subject to inspection, although, for such an event, it is best to use an approved, licensed facility for food preparation. Organizational kitchens such as those found at churches or clubs may also be used.

For events in Madison County, the sponsor of the event should contact the Madison County Health Department at (406)843-4275 prior to the event, with the date and location of the event and types of foods to be sold. The sponsor should also retain a list of who donated what food items in case any follow up is necessary.

Potentially hazardous foods, such as cream-filled pastries, custards, or similar products should not be sold at bake sales. These food types, when not properly handled, have greater potential to cause food borne illness, and may require a Montana temporary food service license.

Products should be individually wrapped to protect them from cross contamination during transportation, storage, and display. Tongs or other utensils should also be used for protection when handling single units during service.

Wash hands vigorously with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds prior to the preparation of any foods. Repeat hand washing after coughing, sneezing, eating, smoking, using the toilet, or other related activity that could contaminate hands.

All surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized using a 100 ppm bleach solution (1 tsp bleach per gallon of water) prior to the preparation of any foods.

For the sale of baked goods on a more than one time, one location basis, the operation may fall under the food processing requirements and should contact the Madison County Health Department. If you have any questions please contact (406)843-4275.