

Ask Yourself...



Where did the food come from?

Where do they wash their hands?



Is the food safe to eat?



Is the food operation approved?



If you believe you have become sick or would like to report an illegal food vendor, contact us at:

805/654-2813

All complaints are handled confidentially.

Thank You!

Ventura County Environmental Health Division
800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura CA 93009-1730

www.vcrma.org/envhealth

Acknowledgement: www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/ and
County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health

ILLEGAL FOOD



What's the Problem?





Illegal Food Vending

Your Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified the risk factors that have been most associated with food borne illness.

These factors are:

- Poor personal hygiene
- Improper holding and cooling temperatures
- Inadequate cooking
- Contaminated equipment
- Food from unsafe sources



▶ When bad food is eaten you can become sick within a few minutes, hours, or in most cases it can take several days.

▶ Young children, elderly people, pregnant women, and people with chronic illness are most at risk.



Being sick and unable to work can cost YOU money.

Protect you and your family:
Don't take risks!
Don't buy food from illegal vendors!

Danger! Be Aware!

The following food safety concerns are associated with illegal food vending:

- No **HANDWASHING**
- No means of keeping food hot or cold
- No potable water or electricity
- No restrooms
- Is the food free of bugs and dirt?
- Employees have no safe food handling knowledge.
- Food sources – where did the food come from?



▶ Since illegal vendors do not have a health permit they are not being inspected or monitored in any way.

▶ Without any health and safety control in place there is no way to tell if the food is safe to eat.



The Law

- It is illegal to sell any food or drink in Ventura County unless the vendor is permitted by the Ventura County Environmental Health Division.
- Permitted food vendors must meet the State Health and Safety Code requirements.
- You may ask the vendor to show you the most recent inspection report and look for the permit sticker.

Here is an example of an APPROVED vendor.



Choose carefully!

- ❖ ONLY BUY FOOD FROM LEGAL FOOD VENDORS.
- ❖ LOOK FOR THE PERMIT STICKER!



The color of the permit sticker changes every year to make it easier to verify if the cart has been approved for the current year.