

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Do I need a license to sell food?*

A: Yes. The sale of food to the public is a highly regulated activity requiring proper facilities, approved equipment and a license from La Crosse County Health Department. There are a variety of food licenses such as restaurant, retail food store, mobile restaurant, mobile retail food store, temporary restaurant, and farmer markets.

Q: *Can I prepare food at home and sell it to the public?*

A: No. All food must be prepared in a licensed establishment. Homes cannot be licensed as restaurants.

Q: *Why can restaurants sell food outside at Riverfest and Oktoberfest?*

A: The food vendors are licensed as temporary restaurants at the point of sale and must follow a specific set of food safety rules designed for this type of food service. Temporary restaurants must operate in conjunction with a public event and cannot operate for more than 14 consecutive days at one location.

Q: *How much does a restaurant license cost?*

A: The annual license fees vary depending on the complexity of the operation. Click on [Business Permits](#) for the current fee.

Q: *Where can I get a farmer market license?*

A: Licenses are available from the Health Department at 300 4th St. North, La Crosse.

Q: *What can I sell when I have a farmer's market license?*

A: Foods grown by the farmer such as fruits and vegetables that are raw and uncut, apple cider, honey, sorghum, and maple syrup may be sold with a farmer market license. Contact the Department at 608-785-9872 for a brochure on farmer markets. You can also view info about the Farmer's Market by clicking [here](#).

Q: *Where can I get testing done for lead, asbestos, mold and radon?*

A: The Health Department provides confidential consultation on these hazards and will direct you to certified private labs if necessary.

Q: *Can I test my home for radon without hiring a radon inspector?*

A: Yes. Testing for radon is a simple process provided the radon detector is placed in the proper location inside the home. For more information [click here](#)

Q: *Can mold be a serious problem inside my home?*

A: Yes. Mold growth inside a home may cause respiratory illness to those individuals who have allergies to mold. There are more than 1,000,000 species of mold. Mold is really a moisture problem and any solution must involve removing the source of moisture. [CDC Mold website](#)