Licensing

All food business in Summit County are required by Ohio law to have a food service operation or retail food establishment license issued by Summit County Public Health (SCPH). All new food service operations/retail food establishments and those performing extensive alterations or remodeling must complete the plan review process.

If you have any questions regarding plan approval or licensing, please contact the Food Safety Program at (330) 926-5600.

Getting Started

Step 1: Submittal of Plans (application should be submitted at least 30 days prior to construction)
- Complete the attached Plan Review Application.
- Submit one (1) complete set of drawings and other applicable information for the facility.
- Submit menu or complete list of food and beverage items to be sold.
- Submit the plan review fee of $425.00 made payable to Summit County Combined General Health District.

Step 2: Plan Review Process
- Written approval, disapproval, or a request for additional information will occur within 30 days of receipt of the application and plan review fee.
- Plan review submittals not acted upon expire two (2) years upon receipt.

Step 3: Construction
- Ensure that all contractors and subcontractors are properly licensed.
- Ensure that your contractors obtain all of the necessary permits through the Building Standards Department in your jurisdiction.
- Contact your local Fire Department for inspection of your facility.

Step 4: Inspection
- Prior to opening your establishment, you must pass a pre-licensing inspection by SCPH.
- The license will not be issued until the facility meets all of the applicable code requirements at the time of the pre-licensing inspection.
- You must submit written documentation that all of the building and/or fire inspections have been completed and passed before a license will be issued.
- The application for the license will be made available at the pre-licensing inspection if the inspection is successfully passed. The license fee must be paid at this time. SCPH accepts checks or money orders.

Note: SCPH personnel will make all attempts to accommodate your timeline for the pre-licensing inspection. Please contact us at least 10 business days in advance of your target opening date to schedule this inspection. Planning ahead helps avoid scheduling conflicts and allows time for re-inspections, if necessary.
Content & Format Requirements for Submittal

The facility layout and equipment specifications submitted for review must meet all of the requirements of Chapter 3717-1-09 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The submittal must include the following components:

1. The type of operation or establishment proposed and a complete list of food items to be prepared, served, or sold (menu).

2. A facility floor plan illustrating the layout of fixtures and other equipment. These specifications must be legible and be drawn reasonably to scale. Electronic submission of plans is subject to approval by the plan reviewer. Often electronic plans are difficult to read and must be printed to be reviewed.

3. The total square footage to be used by the food service operation or retail food establishment.

4. A detailed drawing of the portions of the premises being used including all entrances exists, loading/unloading areas, and docks, etc.

5. A site plan of your property that includes the following:
   a. Drawing showing an arrow indicating north; location of the business in a building such as a shopping mall or stadium;
   b. Location of building onsite, including alleys, streets, and location of any outside support infrastructure such as dumpsters, potable water sources, sewage treatment systems;
   c. Interior and exterior seating areas.

6. A plumbing plan including the location, number, and types of plumbing fixtures; include all water supply facilities.

7. A lighting plan, both natural and artificial, with the number of foot-candles indicated for critical surfaces.

8. A complete list of building materials and surface finishes to be used for each room including the floors, walls, ceilings and coved wall/juncture bases. Note: ceiling tiles installed in food preparation areas, restrooms, and ware washing areas must be vinyl-clad or coated.

9. A list of all equipment with the manufacturer name and model numbers listed. Only commercial equipment approved by a recognized food equipment testing agency, as acceptable for use in a food service operation or retail food establishment, will be accepted as specified under rule 3717-1-04.1(kk) of the Ohio Administrative Code.

10. Label and locate all dedicated hand sinks and dump sinks. Where applicable, dump sinks may be required (i.e. behind bars, front portions of convenience stores, etc.) that are separate from designated hand sinks. Dual-use sinks are not permitted and will not be accepted.

Note: All materials submitted for review become property of Summit County Public Health and are subject to record retention laws. As such you are responsible for making your own copies of the materials submitted.
What Is My Risk Level?

Food facilities are licensed as a Risk Level I, II, III, or IV. Risk levels reflect the potential risk that a facility poses to Public Health and are based on the highest risk level activity of the food service operation/food establishment in accordance with the following criteria:

**Risk level I:** poses potential risk to the public in terms of sanitation, food labeling, and sources of food, storage practices, or expiration dates. Examples of risk level I activities include, but are not limited to, an operation that offers for sale or sells:

1. coffee, self-service fountain drinks, prepackaged non-potentially hazardous beverages;
2. pre-packaged refrigerated or frozen potentially hazardous foods;
3. pre-packaged non-potentially hazardous foods;
4. baby food or formula
5. food delivery sales operations
6. micro-markets

**Risk level II:** poses a higher potential risk to the public than risk level I because of hand contact or employee health concerns but minimal possibility of pathogenic growth exists. Examples of risk level II activities include, but are not limited to:

1. handling, heat treating, or preparing non-potentially hazardous food;
2. holding for sale or serving potentially hazardous food at the same proper holding temperature at which it was received;
3. heating individually packaged commercially processed potentially hazardous foods for immediate service;

**Risk level III:** poses a higher potential risk to the public than risk level II because of the following concerns: proper cooking temperatures, proper cooling procedures, proper holding temperatures, contamination issues or improper heat treatment in association with longer holding times before consumption, or processing a raw food product requiring bacterial load reduction procedures in order to sell it as ready-to-eat. Examples of risk level III activities include but are not limited to:

1. handling, cutting, or grinding raw meat products;
2. cutting or slicing ready-to-eat meats and cheeses;
3. assembling or cooking potentially hazardous food that is immediately served, held hot or cold, or cooled;
4. operating a heat treatment dispensing freezer;
5. reheating in individual portions only; or
6. heating of a product, from an intact, hermetically sealed package and holding it hot;

**Risk level IV:** poses a higher potential risk to the public than risk level III because of concerns associated with: handling or preparing food using a procedure with several preparation steps that includes reheating of a product or ingredient of a product where multiple temperature controls are needed to preclude bacterial growth; offering as ready-to-eat a raw potentially hazardous meat, poultry product, fish, or shellfish or a food with these raw potentially hazardous items as ingredients; using freezing as a means to achieve parasite destruction; serving a primarily high risk clientele including immuno-compromised or elderly individuals in a facility that provides either health care or assisted living; or using time in lieu of temperature as a public health control for potentially hazardous food. Examples of risk level IV activities include, but are not limited to:
(1) reheating bulk quantities of leftover potentially hazardous food more than once every seven days;  
(2) caterers or other similar food service operations that transport potentially hazardous food;  
(3) non-continuous cooking  
(4) performing a food handling process that is not addressed, deviates, or otherwise requires a variance  
   for the process according to rules adopted pursuant to section 3717.05 of the revised code. These  
   facilities will need to have a written HACCP plan for these activities. Examples of these risk level IV  
   variance activities include, but are not limited to:  
   a. reduced oxygen packaging;  
   b. smoking for preservation,  

**Types of Food Establishments**

1. **Food Service Operation (FSO)** – Primary business is the on-site preparation and/or consumption of  
   ready to eat foods in individual portions (for ex. restaurants, caterers, carry outs preparing individual  
   meals, fast food operations, nursing homes, day cares, schools, hospitals, etc.)  
2. **Retail Food Establishment (RFE)** – Primary business is the sale of food in bulk portions for off  
   premise consumption and/or preparation (for ex. grocery stores, drive-thrus, carry outs, pizza shops,  
   gas stations, micromarkets, etc.)

Primary business is defined through sales volume. If your facility operates as both a food service operation  
(FSO) and retail food establishment (RFE), whichever portion of your business has the greater sales volume  
(51% or more) determines your designation (either FSO or RFE).

**Education Requirements**

As of March 1, 2010 the Ohio Revised Code requires that all food service operations and retail food  
establishments opened after this date have at least one person-in-charge per shift that has a level one  
certification in food protection or an equivalent approved training prior to the business being licensed.

As of March 1, 2017, each risk level 3 and risk level 4 food service operation and retail food establishment  
must have at least one management or supervisory employee with a level two certification in food  
protection. This certification is obtained through the Ohio Department of Health after completing an  
approved course (15 hours of instruction and passing a comprehensive exam). A ServSafe® certificate itself  
and the level one certificate does not comply with this rule.

***PLEASE KEEP PAGES 1-4 FOR YOUR REFERENCE***
Summit County Public Health
Food Safety Program
Plan Review Application

Facility Information:

Name of Facility: ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________  State: ___________  Zip: _____________________________

Political Sub Division/ Village/ Township: ____________________________________________

Non-Commercial:  □ Yes  □ No (if yes, a copy of your 501(c) (3) must be provided)

Applicant/ Operator Information:

(Be sure the name of licensee is the same name as appears on your liquor license; usually a person or corporation.)

Name of Licensee (Owner): ________________________________________________  Phone: ________________________

Mailing Address for License Renewal: ________________________________________________

City: _____________________________  State: ___________  Zip: _____________________________

Contact Person (For Plan Review Response): __________________________________________

Title (Owner, Manager, Architect, etc.): ___________________________________________  Phone: ________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________  E-mail: ______________________

City: _____________________________  State: ___________  Zip: _____________________________

Estimated Start Date for Construction: ______________  Completion Date: _________________

Seating Capacity: _______________  Total Size of Operation (sq. ft.): ________________

Plan Review Type:

□ New construction or facility has never operated as a food facility

□ Remodel or extensive alteration of an existing licensed food facility

Type of Establishment:  □ Food Service Operation (FSO)  □ Retail Food Establishment (RFE)

Risk Level:  □ Level 1  □ Level 2  □ Level 3  □ Level 4

Off-Premise Catering (as defined in ORC 3717.01(G)):  □ Yes  □ No

Plans Concurrently Submitted to:  □ Building  □ Fire  □ Other: ________________________
# Plan Review Checklist

The following information must be included as part of your plan review.

Please indicate that the following components are included (√) or not applicable (N/A)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>(√) or (N/A)</th>
<th>Official Use Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan review fee of $425.00 made payable to Summit County Combined General Health District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of facility proposed (FSO, RFE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Menu (complete list of food items to be prepared, served, or sold)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Facility floor plan or layout,</strong> drawn reasonably to scale (to include):</td>
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<tr>
<td>• total square footage to be used</td>
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<td>• restroom location(s)</td>
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<td>• location of entrances and exits</td>
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<td>• location of dry goods and chemical storage areas</td>
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<td>• location of personal belongings storage</td>
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<tr>
<td>• location of designated hand sinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>• location of the three compartment sink</td>
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<tr>
<td>• location of food preparation sink (must have indirect waste line)</td>
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<td>• location of mop sink</td>
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<tr>
<td>• location of dish machine- indicate □ Low or □ High temperature</td>
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<td>• location of all equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Site Plan</strong> (to include):</td>
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<tr>
<td>• drawing showing an arrow indicating north</td>
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<td>• location of the business in a building such as a shopping mall or stadium</td>
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<tr>
<td>• location of building onsite, including alleys, streets, and location of any outside support infrastructure such as dumpsters</td>
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<td>• potable water source, sewage treatment system</td>
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<td>• interior and exterior seating areas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lighting Plan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interior finish schedule</strong> (materials for floors, walls, ceilings, and coving)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equipment list,</strong> include make and model numbers (commercial equipment only, NSF or equivalent)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plumbing Plan</strong> (location, type, and number of all plumbing fixtures)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong> : indicate □ Level One and/or □ Level Two Certification</td>
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</table>

Failure to provide all information may result in a delay or disapproval of your submittal.
Food Protection & Storage

Will there be at least one person-in-charge per shift with a minimum of Level One Certification in Food Protection?  □ YES  □ NO

Will there be at least one PIC that has management or supervisory responsibilities with a Level Two Certification in Food Protection?  □ YES  □ NO

Are copies of the employee Level One and Level Two (if applicable) certificates enclosed?  □ YES  □ NO

Do you have a written sick policy that ensures your food employees are informed (in a verifiable manner) of their responsibilities to report to the PIC information about their health as it relates to diseases that are transmissible through food?  □ YES  □ NO

Do you have a written procedure for employees to follow when responding to vomiting or diarrheal events that addresses how to minimize the spread of contamination and the exposure to employees, consumers, and surfaces?  □ YES  □ NO

If this operation performs a food handling process that is not addressed, deviates, or otherwise requires a variance (such as reduced oxygen packaging, smoking for preservation, bottling or canning) is the required written HACCP plan enclosed?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

Will each refrigerator, freezer, or warmer have a temperature measuring device?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

Will food shields be used to protect foods on display?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

Will temperature measuring devices be provided, readily accessible, and properly calibrated to ensure that the temperature of the food product is being accurately measured?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

Will a minimum of 72 sq. ft. of shelving space be available for dry goods storage?  □ YES  □ NO

Will food be stored at least 6 inches above the floor on commercially certified equipment?  □ YES  □ NO

Is the required menu or list of food items to be prepared, served, or sold enclosed?  □ YES  □ NO

Equipment/ Utensils

Will all equipment and utensils be commercially certified NSF or equivalent?  □ YES  □ NO

Is the required equipment list with make and model numbers enclosed?  □ YES  □ NO

If utensils used with moist foods such as ice cream, or mashed potatoes are not stored in the product, will the required dipper well be provided?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

Are all containers used to store bulk food products constructed of safe materials designed to be in direct contact with food?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

To provide for easy cleaning will equipment be installed with:  □ casters □ gas disconnects □ a seal at the wall and floor □ sufficient open space

Warewashing

What method of warewashing will be used:  □ Manual □ Mechanical □ Both?

The specifications for the primary hot water generator are: ___________ BTU/hr; or ___________ KWH; or ___________ gallons per minute for tank-less water heaters @90° Fahrenheit rise.
**Manual Warewashing**

Will the dimensions of the three-compartment sink be large enough to accommodate the largest food contact surface completely submerged (including large pots & pans)? □ YES □ NO

Dimensions of each compartment of the three compartment sink are _______ inches long _______ inches wide _______ inches deep.

Will the required drain-boards be provided on both ends of the three-compartment sink? □ YES □ NO

Will the hot water temperature delivered to the sink be 120°F – 140°F? □ YES □ NO

What type of sanitizer will be used? □ Chlorine □ Quaternary Ammonia □ Other: ____________________

Will test papers be available to verify the concentration of sanitizer being used? □ YES □ NO

**Mechanical Warewashing**

Type of sanitization to be used: □ High Temperature (180°F) □ Chemical?

Capacity: _________ racks per hour. Final Rinse Water Usage: _________ gallons per hour.

Will a pre-scrapping facility be provided? □ YES □ NO

Will the required drain boards be provided on both sides of the machine? □ YES □ NO

Is the dish machine equipped to automatically dispense detergents and/or sanitizers? □ YES □ NO

Does the dish machine have visual and/or audible notifications to verify that detergents and sanitizers were not delivered during the respective washing and sanitizing cycles? □ YES □ NO

If a high temperature dish machine is used will an irreversible registering temperature indicator (such as a maximum registering thermometer or thermolabels) be provided? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

**Plumbing & Fixtures**

Will all plumbing work be completed under permit from the plumbing authority? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Will the location and size of the grease interceptor be compliant with state plumbing codes as well as local ordinances (if applicable)? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will the drains of the following equipment be provided with at least a two-inch air gap?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<td>Ice Machine</td>
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<td>Ice Storage Bins</td>
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<td>Food Processing Sinks</td>
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<td>Steam Tables</td>
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<td>Dipper Wells</td>
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<td>Steam Kettles and Ovens</td>
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<td>Three-Compartment Sink</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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</table>
Will the required mop sink be provided on each floor? □ YES □ NO

Will the required mop hanger be provided at the mop sink? □ YES □ NO

If the mop sink is located in the food prep or ware washing areas will there be a partition to protect food and equipment from splash? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Will all equipment drain lines, exposed utility service lines, and soda/beer lines be installed as to not interfere with floor cleaning? □ YES □ NO

If the menu or layout dictates, are there dedicated dump sinks available? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

If produce is washed or frozen foods are thawed in a sink will the required dedicated food prep sink with an indirect (air gapped) drain be provided? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

### Water Supply & Sewage Disposal

**Water Supply:** □ Municipal/ Public Authority □ Well*

*Attach the Ohio EPA approval documentation and provide PWS#__________________.

**Sewage Disposal:** □ Municipal/ Sanitary Sewer □ Semi-Public*

*Attach the Ohio EPA approval documentation.

### Handwashing Facilities

Will there be a dedicated hand sink available within 20 feet of any food handling or ware washing area without going around a corner or through a doorway? □ YES □ NO

Total number of hand sinks (not including restrooms): __________.

Will all hand sinks be installed in a manner that prevents splash contamination to food and food contact surfaces? □ YES □ NO

Will all hand sinks be supplied with hot and cold running water through a mixing valve or combination faucet? □ YES □ NO

Is hot and cold running water under pressure available at all hand sinks? (Note: hot water shall be a minimum temperature of 100° Fahrenheit)? □ YES □ NO

Will soap, paper towels/ hand drying facilities, trash receptacles, and signage promoting hand washing be provided at all hand sinks? □ YES □ NO
**Refuse Storage & Disposal**

Will all outdoor refuse receptacles...

- Be placed on a graded and paved surface? □ YES □ NO
- Be rodent proof and leak proof? □ YES □ NO
- Have tight fitting lids/ covers? □ YES □ NO
- Be shown on the enclosed site plan? □ YES □ NO

Is there an outdoor grease storage receptacle? □ YES □ NO

Is there an area designated for garbage can or floor mat cleaning? □ YES □ NO

**Lighting**

Will at least 50 foot-candles of light be provided at:

- Food preparation areas? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- Areas employees work with utensils or equipment? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Will at least 20 foot-candles of light be provided at:

- Consumer self-service areas? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- Inside equipment? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- Areas used for handwashing? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- Areas used for warewashing? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- Areas used for equipment storage? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- In restrooms? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Will at least 10 foot-candles of light be provided at:

- Walk-in coolers and freezers? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- Dry storage areas? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
- All areas when cleaning? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Will the required shielding or shatter-resistant lamps be provided for light fixtures in food storage, preparation, display, or service areas? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

**Ventilation**

Will a commercial exhaust hood with an approved fire suppression system be provided to service cooking equipment producing grease-laden vapors? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Will the canopy hoods completely cover the cooking equipment (extending a minimum horizontal distance of 6 inches beyond the edge of the cooking surface on all open sides)? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Source of make-up air: □ Within the Hood □ Automatic Louvered Fan □ Passive Louvered Vent □ Other: ________________________________

Will a commercial exhaust hood be provided to service a hot temperature dish machine? □ YES □ NO □ N/A
**Interior Finishes**

All room finishes on floors, walls, and ceilings in areas where sinks, urinals, toilets, dish machines, areas subject to food splash/ vapors, food/ wet bars, buffet lines, drink dispensing areas, mop sinks/ service sinks, steam tables and areas where food preparation equipment is located are required to be durable, smooth, easily cleanable and impermeable to moisture. **Painted drywall is not acceptable in these areas.** Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP), tile, stainless steel, or other approved materials are required. These finishes must start at the top of the cove base and extend past any of the above referenced areas a minimum of 18 inches in all directions. Is your facility compliant with this rule? □ YES □ NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Walls</th>
<th>Coved Base</th>
<th>Ceiling</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example</strong></td>
<td>Quarry Tile</td>
<td>FRP</td>
<td>Rubber Base Molding</td>
<td>Vinyl Acoustical Tile</td>
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<td>Food Preparation</td>
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<td>Cooking</td>
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<td>Warewashing</td>
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<td>Food Storage</td>
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<td>Bar</td>
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<td>Restrooms</td>
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<td>Service Areas/ Buffets/ Salad Bars</td>
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<td>Dining</td>
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<td>Mop Room</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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**General Facility Considerations**

Will public restrooms be accessible without passing through food preparation, food storage, or warewashing areas? □ YES □ NO □ N/A

Will restrooms be equipped with self-closing room doors and adequate ventilation? □ YES □ NO

Will a separate storage area be provided for employees personal belongings? □ YES □ NO

Will all toxic chemicals be stored away from food preparation and storage areas? □ YES □ NO

Where will cleaning supplies and chemicals be stored? ________________________________
Will laundry facilities be located on premise?  □ YES  □ NO

Where will clean linens be stored? __________________________________________________________

Where will soiled linens be stored? _______________________________________________________

Will all openings to the exterior (doors, windows, ventilation discharges, etc.) be designed to keep out rodents and insects?  □ YES  □ NO

If you want to leave an exterior door open, it must be supplied with a tight fitting screen that meets both building and fire codes. Is your facility compliant with this requirement?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

Will all insect control devices used to electrocute or stun flying insects be designed to retain the insect within the device as required?  □ YES  □ NO  □ N/A

Pesticides can only be applied by a licensed commercial applicator. Will there be a pest management program instituted?  □ YES  □ NO

Is the completed SCPH Plan Review Checklist enclosed with the materials submitted?  □ YES  □ NO

Plan Review Submission

This application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that an incomplete submittal may delay the plan review process. I understand that any deviation from the initial submittal without prior approval from SCPH may nullify final approval.

I have enclosed a completed SCPH Plan Review Checklist.

I have enclosed the plan review fee of $425.00 (made payable to SCPH).

Signature of applicant: ________________________________

Date: __________________

Submit Plans To:  Summit County Public Health
                    1867 West Market Street
                    Akron, Ohio  44313-6901

Questions:  Food Safety Program
            Phone: (330) 926-5600
            Fax: (330) 923-6436
            www.scphoh.org