



Q: Are fireworks stands required to have Temporary Use Permits?

A: No. The sale of fireworks is regulated by Title 5, Chapter 4 of the Meridian City Code, rather than the outdoor sales and temporary use provisions of Title 3.

Q: What do I need to do in order to close the street for my temporary use?

A: If you wish to close a street or sidewalk, affect traffic flow, or create a greater-than-usual demand on City services, you need to obtain a Special Event Permit. This permit allows the highway district and the Police and Fire Departments to review your plans and ensure the safety of our public. You will also need a separate permit from Ada County Highway District. They can be reached at (208)387-6140.

Q: I am planning a big family reunion in my backyard. Do I need a permit?

A: A private party on land that is not open to the general public generally does not require a Temporary Use Permit. But if the use will affect traffic flow, close a street or require the provision of City services over and above that which is normally provided, you need to obtain a Special Event application.

Q: My event will occur entirely in a park. Do I still need a Temporary Use Permit, or can I just get approval from the Parks & Recreation Department?

A: Meridian City Code says that all persons wishing to have a temporary use, even in a park, must obtain a general Temporary Use Permit from the Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office will route your application to the Parks & Recreation Department for review and approval – but please note that this process will not ensure availability of a park shelter or facility. To reserve a shelter or facility for your event, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at (208) 888-3579.

DISCLAIMER

This brochure is intended to be used for general informational purposes only, and the content is subject to exception, varied interpretation, and change. Nothing herein should be construed or relied upon as the final decision of City staff or elected officials for any purpose whatsoever.

MOBILE SALES UNITS

Q: What is a Mobile Sales Unit?

A: A mobile sales unit is a person or vehicle that travels or goes door-to-door in order to sell something. This includes ice cream trucks, roving food carts, and mobile food vendors.

Q: What do Mobile Sales Units need in order to operate legally in Meridian?

A: Anyone who operates or acts as a mobile sales unit needs to obtain a City of Meridian Mobile Sales Unit License before beginning to operate in Meridian. The City requires health department and tax commission approvals as necessary. All applicants must undergo a criminal background check and provide photographs, fingerprints, and proof of insurance.

Q: If a salesperson has a City of Meridian Mobile Sales Unit License, does that mean I can trust him?

A: The watchword is still “buyer beware” when dealing with traveling salespersons. Call 911 in an emergency. Non-emergency safety concerns regarding mobile sales units should be addressed to the Meridian Police Department at (208) 888-6678, and consumer issues to the Attorney General’s Office Consumer Protection Unit at (208) 334-2424.

Q: I want to go door-to-door to provide information about a political candidate. Do I need a license?

A: No. You do not need to obtain a Mobile Sales Unit License for activity that is constitutionally protected by the First Amendment, such as campaigning for a political candidate.

Q: I am in my school play and want to sell tickets door-to-door. Do I need a license?

A: No. Students may sell admission to a school function or carry on fundraisers on an occasional basis without a Mobile Sales Unit License.



Q: My non-profit organization wants to sell candy to raise money. Do I need a Mobile Sales Unit License?

A: Yes. Non-profit organizations are not exempt from the requirement to get a license based upon their tax-exempt or charitable status.



OUTDOOR SALES and TEMPORARY USES



Temporary, Promotional, and Mobile Sales
★ Special Events ★ Outdoor Markets ★
UNDER THE MERIDIAN CITY CODE
TITLE 3 – CHAPTER 4

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
City of Meridian City Clerk's Office
33 E. Broadway Avenue
Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone: (208) 888-4433
Email: cityclerk@meridiandcity.org
www.meridiandcity.org

TEMPORARY USES

Q: What is a temporary use?

A: The term “temporary use” refers to the use of a property that is different from the typical or approved use of that property, including:

- **Promotional Sales/Events:** Temporary sales/event by and at a bricks-and-mortar business (examples: tent sale, seasonal goods sale or grand opening event in parking lot).
- **Temporary Sales Units:** Open-air sales by a temporary vendor (examples: produce stand, snow-cone stand, Christmas tree lot).
- **Special Events/Large Scale Special Events:** Planned gatherings that change the typical use of a publicly accessible area (examples: festival, parade, race, block party). *Special Event applications must be submitted 30 days before such event and *Large Scale Special Event applications must be submitted 60 days before such event.
- **Outdoor Markets:** Open-air sales of food, crafts, or goods within 300 feet of another seller (examples: farmers’ market, flea market).
- **Subdivision Model Home:** Temporary Use of a Model Home for the purpose of selling homes within a subdivision.

Q: What do I need to legally operate a temporary use in Meridian?

A: You need to obtain a City of Meridian Temporary Use Permit before you begin to operate in Meridian. The City also requires that you have the permission of the owner of the land where the use is to occur. You must also submit for City approval plans for site set-up, security, and clean-up to help ensure the safety of our public. In the application process, the City may require health department, tax commission, and highway district approvals. You may pick up a Temporary Use Permit application from the City Clerk’s Office (at City Hall: 33 E. Broadway); by phone: 888-4433; or online: www.meridiancity.org.

Q: Are there certain standards that my temporary use needs to meet?

A: Our City Code helps to regulate temporary uses by establishing both general standards (which is applicable to all temporary uses), and specific standards (which are applicable to each specific type of use). A full listing of the general and specific requirements for temporary uses can be found in Meridian City Code sections 3-4-3(B) and (C).

For example, all applicants for temporary uses need to:

- Follow all conditions established in the permit;
- Avoid obstructing sidewalks, streets, the clear vision triangle, and landscaped areas;
- Ensure that parking is on a dustless surface; and restrict noise, litter, and other impacts to your neighbors.

Q: How many signs am I allowed to put up to advertise my temporary use?

A: The City allows for temporary signs depending on the specific type of temporary use. The following describes the maximum number and size in square feet (sf) allowed for signs for each type of temporary use:

- Promotional sales units: 2 signs, 32 sf
- Temporary sales units: 2 signs, 16 sf
- Special events: 200 signs, 6 sf; 12 signs, 32 sf
- Outdoor markets: 10 signs, 6 sf; 4 signs, 32sf
- Subdivision model home: 1 sign, 16 sf

In all cases, you need to have the permission of the owner of the land where you place signs, and you need to remove all signs within 24 hours of the end of your temporary use. You will be asked to describe all signs related to your temporary use in the Temporary Use Permit application.



Q: I own a permanent business in Meridian and I’m having a big sale. Do I need a permit?

A: An outdoor sale by a permanent business on the business premises does require a Temporary Use Permit. But a sale inside a permanent business is not considered a change in the typical use of that property, so no Temporary Use Permit is required for that activity. If you intend to put up signs advertising a sale or event inside a permanent business, however, you need to first obtain a Temporary Sign Permit, available from the City Planning Department at 33 E. Broadway; by phone: 884-5533; or online: www.meridiancity.org.

Q: Does my garage sale require a permit?

A: A garage sale at a residence is considered a temporary use and needs to follow the regulations for garage sales, but generally this type of use does not require a Temporary Use Permit. However, a garage sale that is not taking place at a residence will likely require a Temporary Use Permit. For example, if a charitable organization holds a garage sale in a bank or store parking lot, it needs to obtain a Temporary Use Permit, because that use is making a change to the approved use of that parking lot.

Q: I was so busy planning my event that I forgot to get a Temporary Use Permit! Does it really matter?

A: Yes! The Temporary Use Permit and standards related to temporary uses were adopted by the Meridian City Council in response to an increasing demand on City services created by temporary uses, a need to protect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens who are participating in or affected by temporary uses, and a desire to be proactive in planning temporary uses in our community that are enjoyable and safe for everyone.

Upholding these values means that those planning a temporary use need to complete the City permit application process as the first step. The code provides the City with 15 days to process a Temporary Use Permit upon receiving a complete application; 30 days to process a Special Event and 60 days to process a Large Scale Special Event so please apply well in advance of the first day of your temporary use, and obtain all of the necessary approvals before undertaking promotional or advertising efforts.

The failure to obtain a required Temporary Use Permit, or to comply with a term of a permit, is a citable offense, and in addition to other penalties, may result in denial of future or pending City applications.