

Step 36 · Readiness

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I have ready for a health inspection?

Use the authority's current checklist and your approved plan. Have the intended setup ready to demonstrate, with working handwashing, safe food storage, water and waste arrangements, cleaning supplies, and required documents. Check thermometers and sanitizer testing equipment where applicable. For mobile service, ask whether the full unit or tent must be set up. Keep these controls working every day, not just on inspection day.

What should I prepare for my first farmers market?

Keep the menu manageable and rehearse setup, orders, payment, and pack-down. Confirm the organizer's arrangements and required approvals, including power, water, food handling, and weather plans. Bring sensible stock and a way to handle shortages; attendance is not a guaranteed order count. If possible, arrange help for restocking and problems. Record sales, waste, waits, and full costs so the first market teaches you what to change next time.

Use the actual food-safety requirements for your setup, not another vendor's cleaning recipe.

What should I learn from my first service?

Look beyond whether people liked the drinks. Record setup and warm-up time, missing supplies, order handoffs, restocking, cleaning, and the close. Owners describe surprises such as wind, equipment that was not ready, and a topping that failed in service. Fix those problems and repeat the affected work before inviting a bigger crowd. A friends-and-family service still needs the permissions and safe handling required for your operation.

How soon after a soft opening should I announce the grand opening?

Wait until the trial shows that you can deliver the service you plan to advertise. Leave time to fix problems, train the team, and repeat the work that failed. There is no proven number of soft-opening days that fits every business. Confirm approvals, supply, staffing, and opening hours before announcing a firm date. A smaller, reliable opening is easier to explain than a big promise you cannot yet keep.

Educational guidance. Check your own circumstances with the appropriate local professional.