



Food premises - Guidelines for construction & fit-out

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (Chapter 3) contains requirements for the establishment of new food businesses and the upgrading of existing premises. Food Standard is available through the website at www.foodstandards.gov.au.

Food Businesses are required to ensure that their food premises, fixtures, fittings, equipment and transport vehicles are designed and constructed to minimise opportunities for food contamination. If you require any further advice regarding fit-out requirements, contact the Environmental Health team at the City of West Torrens on 8416 6333.

Please be advised that it is important to contact the City Development team at the City of West Torrens prior to commencement of any proposed work, as planning and/or building approval may be required.

General requirements (3.2.3 Clause 3)

The design and construction of food businesses must:

- Be appropriate for the activities for which the premises are used.
- Provide adequate space for the activities to be conducted on the premises.



Photo 123RF

- Permit the food premises to be effectively cleaned and sanitised.
- To the extent that is possible, exclude dirt, dust, fumes, pests and other contaminants, nor provide harbourage for pests.

Water supply (3.2.3 Clause 4)

- Adequate supply must be made available for all activities requiring the use of water.
- Water used must be acceptable for human consumption.

Sewage and waste water disposal (3.2.3 Clause 5)

- All sewage and waste water must be disposed of to the sewer.
- Contact SA Water (Trade Waste Section) for advice on requirements for grease

arrestors and other pre-treatment devices.

Storage of garbage and recyclable matter (3.2.3 Clause 6)

- Adequate facilities must be provided for the sanitary storage of all garbage and recyclable matter.
- Food wastes must be stored in suitably sized, easily cleaned containers which are enclosed to keep pests and animals away and minimise the production of odours.

Ventilation (3.2.3 Clause 7)

- Sufficient natural or mechanical ventilation is required to effectively remove fumes, smoke steam and vapours.

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- Generally, mechanical ventilation will be required to be installed above most cooking, frying and steaming appliances. Further guidance on specific requirements may be found in Australian Standard 1668.2 (Part 2 – Mechanical Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality).

Lighting (3.2.3 Clause 8)

- Sufficient lighting must be provided for activities conducted on the food premise.
- Guidance on lighting and “good seeing conditions” can be found in Australian Standard 1680 Part 1 – 1990, and AS/NZ 1680.2.4 1997.
- All ceiling lighting in food preparation areas should be fitted with suitable plastic covers (diffusers) or be of shatterproof design.

Floors, walls and ceilings

The following requirements relate to areas of food premises other than areas used for dining, drinking, or where customers would ordinarily have access.

Floors (3.2.3 Clause 10)

- Finishes must be appropriate for the intended food activity.

- Must be able to be effectively cleaned.
- Must be unable to absorb grease, food particles or water.
- Must not allow for the ponding of water.
- Must not provide harbourage for pests.

Depending on the location, examples of suitable finishes may include ceramic tiles, seam welded vinyl, or smooth finished concrete render (suitably sealed or coated). Coving should be considered in wet food handling areas or areas requiring flushing with water to clean.

Walls and Ceilings (3.2.3 Clause 11)

- Must be appropriate for the intended food activity.
- Must be provided where they are necessary to protect food against contamination.
- Must be sealed to prevent entry of dirt, dust and pests.
- Must be unable to absorb grease, food particles or water.
- Must be able to be easily and effectively cleaned.

In relation to walls, consideration needs to be given to the amount of splashing, soiling and cleaning required in specific areas. High maintenance cleaning and wet areas (ie. above sinks, benches and behind cooking

equipment) may require durable finishes such as tiles, stainless steel or concrete render (suitably sealed or coated). Avoid the use of open brickwork wherever possible, unless suitably finished to allow for effective cleaning.

In relation to ceilings, continuous construction (ie. flushed plasterboard) is recommended for new premises where unpackaged food is handled, stored or displayed. Drop-in panels are acceptable for existing premises provided the panels fit flush, and are able to be effectively cleaned. Walls and ceilings requiring painting should be finished with a washable, durable paint of light colour.

Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment (3.2.3 Clause 12)

- Must be fit for intended use, and adequate for the production of safe and suitable food.
- Must be designed, constructed, located and installed, so as to be not likely to cause food contamination, and be able to be easily and effectively cleaned and sanitised, if necessary.

Continued page 3

Particular consideration should be given to finishes and materials for food contact surfaces. Suitable food grade materials may include stainless steel, laminate and certain plastics.

Washing of eating and drinking utensils and food contact equipment

- 1) Double bowl sink (recommended) – one side for cleaning and the other for rinsing/sanitising, or
- 2) A dishwashing unit capable of sanitising in the rinse phase (may be commercial or domestic).
Note: For sanitising purposes a domestic dishwasher must be run on the hottest setting for the longest wash cycle.

Handwashing facilities (3.2.3 Clause 14)

- Provided wherever food may be contaminated by the hands (ie. where unpackaged food is handled, stored or displayed); and Immediately adjacent to toilets or toilet cubicles.
- Must be easily accessible and permanent fixtures.
- Must be connected to a supply of warm running water.
- Must be large enough to allow for effective handwashing.

- Must be clearly designated for the sole purpose of washing the hands, arms and face.
- Must be provided with a supply of soap (preferably liquid) and single use towels at all times.

As a guide to location, it is recommended that food handlers in typical food service businesses should not need to travel more than 5 metres to access a handwash facility.

Storage facilities (3.2.3 Clause 15)

Chemicals, staff clothing and personal belongings must be stored in separate, designated areas, where they are not likely to contaminate food

Toilet facilities (3.2.3 Clause 16)

Adequate facilities must be available for the use of food handlers.

Food Transport Vehicles (3.2.3 Clause 17)

Must be constructed, so that it can be easily cleaned and be able to afford adequate protection to the food (including refrigeration where necessary).


