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Ngahuru Autumn 2023

Food business tips and reminders

Autumn is here and so far it's been delivering the sunshine hours that were missing over summer! Better weather is great news for food operators, especially with two significant public holidays in April. Easter begins on Friday 7 April, followed by Anzac Day on Tuesday 25 April. If you're planning any special events during these holidays, you may need to apply for a Special Licence. Check out our reminders below to help you prepare for the season.



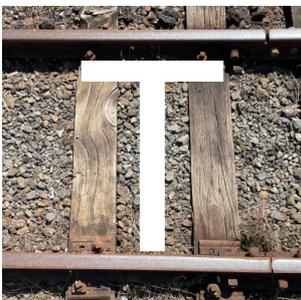
ANZAC and Easter trading

To check if you can open on a holiday go to [Employment NZ](#).
Good Friday is a public holiday and a restricted trading day.
Easter Sunday is a restricted trading day (not a public holiday).
Easter Monday and Anzac Day are both public holidays.
Our [Easter Sunday Trading Policy](#) allows trading in the district.



Using public spaces for alfresco dining

As long as the sun keeps up this great autumn performance, sitting outside to enjoy a meal will be in high demand. If you want to offer alfresco dining on public land you must have the necessary approval from the council. Check out the [Road Use Bylaw 2022](#) and fill out an [Alfresco dining application form](#).



Taking over an existing food business

If you are purchasing an existing registered food premises, make sure it will be suitable for your new food operation. If you intend to change the nature of the business, you may need to alter the premises. Before taking the plunge to purchase, you can contact one of our Environmental Health Officers to discuss your new operation. We're here to help!



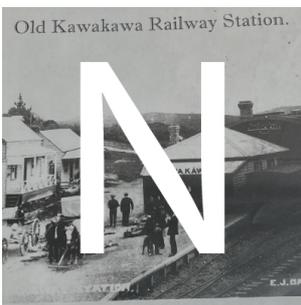
Unwanted creepy crawlies

Bzzzzzzzz. Whack! Yep, fly season has been extended! The combination of a rainy summer followed by warm weather means you can expect an explosion of flies and insects this autumn. To help with this we've included tips below on controlling these pesky visitors before they start to bug you.



Make sure you are registered

If you are selling food, you are a food operator. Whether you're selling food online, through a café, at a restaurant, at a shop, market or from a food truck, you need to have a food registration. Remember Food Act Registrations are not transferable, so if you're selling your food business, the new operator will need to apply for their own registration.



Need food business resources?

There are a variety of free resources available online for food operators. These include: how to make a food plan or programme to manage food safety risks; and how to get your business verified. Go to the [NZ Food Safety](#) pages provided by Ministry for Primary Industries to see what's on offer.



Food items on display

Food items on display need to be covered to prevent contamination from insects or sneezing homo sapiens.

Using a cabinet, covers or sneeze guards are common food protection methods. Contact us for advice on the best option for you.

It's your responsibility to protect your food from contamination.



Ratty residents

As temperatures drop, rodents will be on the hunt for a warm winter retreat.

To stop rodents becoming residents at your place:

- close all cracks and holes (including the gaps where plumbing pipes enter)
- lay traps and poison
- get in a professional if the peskiness persists.



Pesky pests

To reduce unwanted winged visitors, the following practises will help:

- installing fly screens on every door and window that opens
- keeping food covered and refrigerated
- cleaning and sanitising preparation surfaces
- removing rubbish more frequently.



Food registration renewal is the easier option

It's the food operator's responsibility to register the business and to renew the food registration before it's due. The expiry date is on the registration certificate.

Failure to renew your registration will mean:

- you will need to apply for a new registration
- you will have to cease trading until you obtain a new registration.

Cost to register vs cost to renew:

- a new Food Control Plan (FCP) is **\$310 vs \$232.50** to renew a FCP
- a new National Programme (NP) **\$250 vs \$142.50** to renew a NP.

It's best to renew your registration a month or two before it expires.



Food verification

Once registered, the **Food Act 2014** requires your food business to be verified by the council.

- See **Section 50** for verifying FCPs. FCP cost \$542.50 to be verified.
- See **Section 80** for verifying NPs. NP cost \$387.50 to be verified.

Business owners who don't comply with verification requirements, may have their operations suspended or cancelled. Businesses cannot trade if this occurs.

Find out more here -

[Terms and conditions for Verification Services \(Food Act 2014\).](#)

Any suggestions for our next newsletter?

Email us at ask.us@fndc.govt.nz or visit our website at:
www.fndc.govt.nz/Our-Services/Licences_and_permits



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