

Opening a Restaurant in Bedford



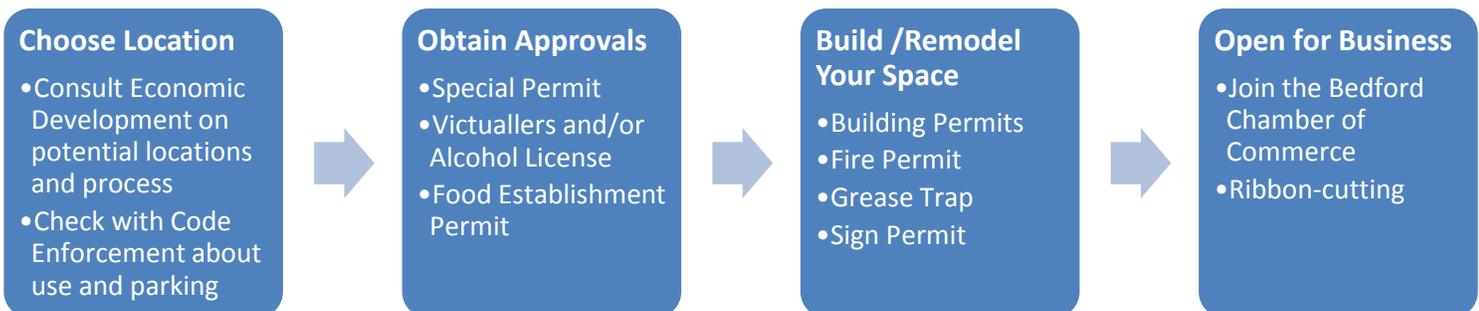
Bedford is a friendly New England community, which comfortably brings together its small town charm with a robust economy. Bedford enthusiastically welcomes new restaurants and benefits from having:

- Median household income **44% higher** than metropolitan Boston
- **Walkable** business districts in close proximity to major employment centers
- While the resident population is 13,400, Bedford's **daytime population** doubles with a workforce population of over 20,000 people
- **Large employers** including MITRE Corp, Hanscom Airforce Base, EMD Millipore, Progress Software, Instrumentation Labs, Middlesex Community College as well as many high-tech/biotech startups
- **Bike and pedestrian-friendly** home to the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway and over 16 miles of hiking and bicycle trails
- **Strategic location** which draws residents and employees from *Lexington, Burlington, Billerica, Carlisle, Concord, and Lincoln* on the **Route 128 /Route 3 corridors**

To start:

 **Contact Alyssa Sandoval, Economic Development Coordinator, 781-275-1111** for information about **potential locations and assistance** with the permitting process. As with all communities in Massachusetts, starting a restaurant might involve authorizing the restaurant use in a particular location, obtaining applicable licenses and permits, and meeting health and building codes. The Town of Bedford strives to make the process as seamless and easy as possible and understands your primary goal is to have a successful business that can thrive and grow.

Please see the following steps for guidance on the overall process for opening a restaurant.



Opening a Restaurant in Bedford



To supplement the chart above, see detailed information including department contacts.

- A. Consult the Code Enforcement Department for comprehensive information on zoning and parking requirements on a particular site. Restaurants in new locations require a SPECIAL PERMIT through the Zoning Board of Appeals. Speak with a Building Inspector about obtaining a BUILDING PERMIT and/or a SIGN PERMIT if your proposed retail site requires interior or exterior renovations, including any new or remodeled signage.

Contact: **Chris Laskey**, Code Enforcement Director, 781-275-7446.

Note: Some new or expanded restaurants, including adding outdoor seating, may also require additional review by the **Planning Board or Historic District Commission** if located in a Historic District or in Overlay Districts. Special permits within the Depot, North Road or Town Center overlay districts and Industrial Mixed Use Special Permit are reviewed by the Planning Board.

- B. Obtain a BUSINESS CERTIFICATE from the Town Clerk's Office if necessary.

Contact: **Doreen Tremblay**, Town Clerk – 781-275-0083

- C. Apply to the Health Department for a FOOD ESTABLISHMENT PERMIT

Contact: **Katherine Dagley, Health Agent.** – 781-275-6507

Contact the Board of Health before (1) construction of a food establishment, (2) change of ownership, (3) remodeling of an establishment; (4) change in the type of food establishment or operation, such as adding outdoor seating. A FOOD ESTABLISHMENT PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION and FOOD ESTABLISHMENT INITIAL PERMIT APPLICATION can be obtained from the Board of Health office. Some applications require 30-days for review.

- D. Apply to the Selectmen's Office for a COMMON VICTUALLERS LICENSE if your restaurant has seating for diners on the premises, and for an ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE if your restaurant plans to serve alcohol.

Contact: **Colleen Doyle**, Town Manager's Office – 781-275-1111

- E. Contact the Fire Department to schedule fire safety inspections for smoke detectors.

Contact: **Captain Mark Sullivan or Captain Charles Stone** - 781-275-5266.

- F. Contact the Department of Public Works for grease trap and backflow prevention inspections.

Contact: **Adrienne St. John**, Engineer - 781-275-7605

- G. Consider joining the Bedford Chamber of Commerce for advertising and networking opportunities. The Chamber can organize a ribbon-cutting grand opening for your new restaurant.

Contact: **Maureen Sullivan**, Director – 781-275-8503