

Guidance for Mobile Bar Operators in Montana

If you own a mobile bar and provide bartending services or if you're hosting an event or venue, in your backyard, or somewhere that's **not licensed** to serve alcohol, a mobile bar can make it easy to serve alcoholic beverages to persons attending the private event. In Montana, mobile bar operators or those companies that rent mobile bars, **may not pre-stock** the mobile bar with alcoholic beverages. The alcoholic beverages used in the mobile bar must be purchased separately by the host of the private event.

Mobile Bars may look like:

- Refurbished RVs and vehicles
- Decorated carts and trailers
- Refurbished horse trailers and food trucks

Mobile Bars may be:

- Rented and used in conjunction with a hired bartender or event coordinator
- Stocked with mixers, glassware, etc. (no alcoholic beverages)
- Stocked with alcoholic beverages purchased only by the private event host
- Used at a private event and may not charge guests for alcoholic drinks

Mobile Bars may NOT:

- Come fully stocked with alcoholic beverages (a "dry" bar)
- Serve alcoholic beverages to the public (private events only)
- Charge attendees for alcoholic beverages

Types of mobile alcoholic beverage "vehicles" NOT ALLOWED include but are not limited to:

- Pedal pub
- Beer cycle
- Trolley pub
- Rickshaw bike bar
- Beverage carts

Note: Mobile bars fully stocked with alcoholic beverages are only allowed if it is owned or used by an alcoholic beverage licensee with a catering endorsement (see [Catering Endorsement Fact Sheet](#)). Licensees may be hired by the event host to "cater" alcoholic beverages with the mobile bar. Only licensees and their employees (excludes contract companies and their employees) may sell and serve alcoholic beverages.

Questions? Contact a licensing specialist for your county (see [Contact a Licensing Specialist list](#)).

All licensees must comply with all Federal and Montana alcoholic beverage laws and rules.

[16-6-302](#), MCA (selling alcoholic beverages without a license).

[5.2023](#) Please note that the information in department communications may have been modified, superseded, or made obsolete by changes in federal or state law or the Administrative Rules of Montana. If you need to verify the current validity of this fact sheet or have any questions, please contact us at DORABCD-O&E@mt.gov.

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