



County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health
Food and Housing Division

Mobile Body Art Facility Plan Check Guide



PLAN CHECK PROCESS

A practitioner or owner planning to construct or retrofit a vehicle that will be fitted or designed to perform body art, must submit plans to the Plan Review Unit of the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and obtain a health permit prior to operating a vehicle for the performance of body art.

The plans must be complete, easily readable, and drawn to scale. They may be prepared by an architect, contractor, or owner detailing all applicable requirements of this plan check guide in compliance with the current code. A plan check fee will be required to be submitted along with the scaled plans and application package.

Prior to opening for business, an inspection of the mobile body art vehicle will be conducted to determine if the vehicle and its proposed method of operation meet the specifications of the approved plans. A mobile body art facility may open for business once all equipment installation has been approved and the health permit is issued by DEH and necessary permits from all other applicable agencies have been obtained. Contact the local city and zoning authority for restrictions and requirements that may apply to the operation of the mobile body art facility in each locality proposed for business operations.

Since body art procedures must be performed inside of an enclosed vehicle with floors, walls, and ceilings, the vehicle shall be inspected by the California Department of Housing and Community Development to obtain a special occupancy permit. Contact the Codes and Standards Department, from the local jurisdictions listed below, for permit and inspection requirements to obtain a certification insignia. A vehicle will not be permitted to operate without a certification insignia.

Local California Department of Housing and Community Development offices are located at:

3737 Main Street, Suite 400 Riverside, CA 92501-3337 (951) 782-4420	2000 East Fourth Street, Suite 304 Santa Ana, CA 92705-3949 (714) 558-4974
3220 South Higuera, Room 103 B San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-6982 (805) 549-3373	20201 Sherman Way, Suite 106 Winnetka, CA 91306-3297 (818) 717-5267
1530 Hilton Head Road, Suite 107 El Cajon, CA 92019-4655 (619) 441-2326	2986 Bechelli Lane, Suite 201 Redding, CA 96002-1903 (530) 224-4815
9342 Tech Center Drive, Suite 550 Sacramento, CA 95826-2581 (916) 255-2532	

The California Department of Motor Vehicles Occupational Licensing regulations shall also apply to mobile body art facilities. You will need to contact the California Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain information on permit requirements.

MOBILE BODY ART FACILITY CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

The mobile body art facility shall meet the requirements listed below. The requirements, including the finish schedule shall be outlined in the schematic or drawing of the scaled plans.

1. **Floors** – Floors throughout the work areas shall be constructed of materials that are smooth, non-absorbent, washable, and free of open holes. All floor surfaces must be capable of being maintained in a sanitary manner. Unfinished wood surfaces are not acceptable.
2. **Walls** – Walls shall be smooth, washable, free of open holes, and non-absorbent. Unfinished wood surfaces are not acceptable. Surfaces throughout the vehicle, including construction joints and seams shall be tightly fitted and sealed so as to be easily cleanable. The vehicle shall be maintained to prevent the entrance of vermin. The use of silicone sealant or equivalent waterproof compounds is acceptable provided there are no gaps and vermin are excluded.
3. **Workstation and Equipment** – Within a procedure area where a practitioner performs body art, the workstation includes, but is not limited to, the client chair, or table, counter, instrument tray, arm rests, storage drawer, and practitioner's chair. All workstation equipment shall be in good repair, non-absorbent and easily cleanable. All counter surfaces and service trays must have a smooth, durable, and non-absorbent finish. Storage cabinets shall be capable of protecting packaged sterilized equipment and instruments from dust and moisture.
4. **Procedure Area(s)** – The procedure area is to be used only for the performance of body art. The procedure area is to be separated from all non-body art related business at the discretion of the local enforcement agency.
5. **Handwashing** – The procedure area must be equipped with a fixed handwash sink(s) for the exclusive use of the practitioner. The handwash sink shall be supplied with a pressurized supply of at least 5 gallons of potable water, containerized liquid soap, and single-use paper towels that are dispensed from a wall-mounted, touchless dispenser. The handwash sink shall provide warm water through a mixing or combination valve. The handwash sink(s) shall be sealed in place and must be accessible to practitioners.
6. **Handwashing Sink Size** – The handwash sink shall be at least 9 inches wide, 9 inches long, and 5 inches deep.
7. **Potable Water and Waste Water Tanks** – The mobile body art facility shall be equipped with a 5-gallon potable water tank that is easily cleanable and a wastewater tank. The wastewater tank shall be sized to be a minimum of 1.5 times the size of the potable water tank.
8. **Lighting** – The procedure area shall be equipped with a light source that provides adequate light at the level where the practitioner is practicing body art. Lighting must be adequate to provide effective cleaning ability.
9. **Windows and Doors** – Doors and openable windows shall be tight-fitting and maintained closed during procedures. Openable windows and doors shall have tight-fitting screens to prevent the entrance of vermin. The screening on the door or window shall be 16 mesh per square inch screen or better.

10. **Lined Waste Containers** – Lined waste containers shall be located at each procedure area.

11. **Sharps Containers** – A sealable, rigid and puncture proof sharps container must be provided at each procedure area for the disposal of single use needles, needle bars, piercing needles, and sharp objects that are capable of cutting or piercing the skin, that has been used in the performance of body art and has not been disinfected or sterilized following use. Sharps containers shall be portable, if portability is necessary to ensure that the sharps waste container is within arm's reach of the practitioner. The sharps waste container shall be labeled with the words "sharps waste" or with the international biohazard symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD."

NOTE: Some Mobile Body Art Facilities may require approval from the California Department of Housing and Community Development prior to approval by DEH. Please contact DEH prior to submitting plans to see if this requirement applies to your operation.

MOBILE BODY ART FACILITY OPERATION

The mobile body art facility shall comply with the following requirements for operation:

1. The mobile body art facility shall only use disposable, single-use, pre-sterilized equipment and instruments. Autoclave or sterilization equipment is not allowed to be placed or operated in a mobile body art vehicle. The following records shall be kept and maintained readily available for inspection by DEH for 90 days following the use of the instruments at the site of practice, for the purpose of verifying the use of disposable, single-use, pre-sterilized instruments:
 - A record of purchase and exclusive use of all single-use instruments.
 - A log of all procedures, including the names of the practitioner and client and the date of the procedure.
 - Written proof on company or laboratory letterhead showing that the pre-sterilized instruments have undergone a sterilization process. Written proof shall clearly identify the instruments sterilized by name or item number and shall identify the lot or batch number of the sterilizer run.
2. A copy of the mobile body art facility's Infection Prevention and Control Plan shall be provided and maintained on-site. For tattooing practices, the use of all disposable, single-use, pre-sterilized equipment and instruments shall be outlined in the Infection Prevention and Control Plan.
3. Body piercing practices are prohibited in a mobile body art facility, unless the entire procedure, including the use of all disposable, single-use, pre-sterilized equipment and instruments and pre-sterilized jewelry is outlined in the Infection Prevention and Control Plan.
4. The mobile body art facility is to be used exclusively for performing body art and no other purpose. No body art procedures are to be conducted outside of the enclosed vehicle. The vehicle may not be used as a living space or residential dwelling for practices such as sleeping, bathing, or meal preparation.
5. The vehicle shall be maintained clean, in good repair and kept in sanitary condition. It must be free of insect or vermin infestation.

6. Animals, except for American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) defined service animals, are not allowed in the vehicle procedure area(s).
7. Only commercially manufactured inks, dyes, and pigments shall be used.
8. For permanent cosmetics, the machine used shall be designed and manufactured to provide removable tip parts between the tip and motor housing, and in a manner that will prevent backflow into enclosed parts of the motor housing. Manufacturer specification sheets for the machine(s) shall be readily available onsite for inspection by DEH.
9. No eating, smoking, or drinking shall be permitted in the procedure areas.
10. No other clients are allowed in the procedure area during a branding procedure. Appropriate protective face filter masks are required to be worn during a branding procedure.
11. The practitioners' certificate of registration and all necessary health permits must be posted in public view.
12. A supply of client consent forms, written aftercare instructions, and client medical questionnaires shall be available on-site.
13. Approved Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) disinfectants and antiseptic solutions used for preparation of the procedure site shall be provided. Material Safety Data Sheets shall be available for each chemical.
14. Sufficient single use supplies, such as disposable gloves, single-use receptacles for inks or pigments, sterile dressings, disposable plastic wrap or other coverings for chair, tattoo machine, clip cord, workstation, etc. shall be available on-site.
15. Personal protective equipment that is appropriate for the specific body art task, such as disposable gloves, disposable aprons, lap pads, etc. shall be provided.
16. All sharps waste produced during the performance of body art shall be disposed by either of the following methods:
 - Removed and disposed by an approved licensed medical waste hauler and disposed of at a licensed treatment facility or removed and transported through a mail-back system approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
 - As solid waste, after being disinfected by a method approved by the California Department of Public Health in compliance with all applicable laws.

The last three years of documentation, such as tracking documents, for the proper disposal of sharps waste containers disposed of through a licensed medical waste hauler or mail-back system shall be maintained on-site and available for review upon the request of the local enforcement agency.

17. All wastewater shall be discharged at an approved wastewater servicing area, such as an RV trailer station.

18. A mobile body art facility shall be operated within 200 feet of an accessible restroom. The toilet facilities shall be in accordance with the specifications of the California Plumbing code, local building codes and any other local ordinance. The sink shall be supplied with hot and cold running water, containerized liquid soap, and single-use paper towels that are dispensed from a wall-mounted, touchless dispenser. If an approved restroom is available on the mobile body art facility, it shall have a closable door.

SHARPS DISPOSAL WEB LINKS

List of California Department of Public Health Authorized Medical Waste Transporters
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/2013/Haulist.pdf>

List of California Department of Public Health Approved Mail-Back Services
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/SharpsMailBackList.pdf>

List of California Department of Public Health Approved Alternative Treatment Technologies
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/AltTechList.pdf>

Room/Area Materials and Finishes

ROOM OR AREA	FLOOR	WALLS
<i>Example: Restroom</i>	<i>Smooth quarry tile</i>	<i>Gypsum board; smooth; semi-gloss paint Swiss coffee</i>
Procedure Areas		
Waiting Area		

Equipment Information – Part One

ROOM OR AREA	LOCATION	MANUFACTURER	MODEL NUMBER
<i>Example:</i>			
Tattoo Machine			
Permanent Cosmetic Machine			
Water Heater Capacity: gal.			
Potable Water Tank Capacity: gal.			
Waste Water Tank Capacity: gal.			

Note: Please provide specification sheets for all equipment.

Equipment Information – Part Two

ROOM OR AREA	DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL
<i>Example: Restroom</i>	
Practitioner Chair	
Client Chair	
Client bed	
Stool	
Arm Rest	
Mayo Trays	
Counters	
Storage Cabinets	
Disposable Instruments	