



2026 Distillery Winter Village Vendor Application Guidelines

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This document is subject to change.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a vendor at The Distillery Winter Village.

Please take a moment to review this document prior to submitting a Vendor Screening Form.

This document is intended to provide an overview and establish guidelines for prospective vendors. Successful applicants will engage in a formal Agreement, wherein the terms set forth in the Agreement shall take precedence over the guidelines outlined herein.





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1. Overview

The Distillery Winter Village is Canada's premier holiday market, garnering close to a million annual visitors. The Distillery Winter Village is the picture-perfect destination for friends and families alike to gather and experience the sights and sounds of their favourite holiday traditions. Our customers have come to expect a selection of curated cuisine and high-quality local craftspeople to fulfill their shopping needs throughout the event.

Do you have a dash of the holiday spirit? We're looking for vendors who truly love what they do! That includes makers, creators, and curators who are passionate about their craft, proud to share the stories behind their products, and excited to connect with our community.

Stay on Santa's *nice list* by ensuring you read this document in full prior to submitting your Vendor Screening Form. We ask that you use our online form to apply. We do not accept applications submitted in person, via mail, via email, or by any other method (unless requested).

If you require additional support, our team can be reached at: wintervillage@thedistillerydistrict.com. Please note, it may take 3-5 business days to receive a response. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

2. Restricted Products

Before you continue, we recognize the time that goes into completing a vendor application. Please take a moment to review the following restricted products before proceeding with your application. **The Distillery Winter Village is unable to consider applications for any Product or Service that conflicts with existing year-round businesses. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:**

Restricted Retail Products:

Mass-produced products, Jewellery, Candles, Hats, Scarves, Mittens, Gloves, Clothing, Skincare, Shoes, Socks, Activewear, Pet Products, Eyewear, Pens, and Sportswear/Merchandise.

Restricted Food & Beverage:

Coffee, Ice Cream Products, Hot Chocolate, Sake, Hot Sauce, Butter Tarts, Truffle Oils, and Pies.

Food Trucks:

The Distillery Winter Village does not host Food Trucks.



3. Application Timeline

Stage 1: Submit a Vendor Screening Form

Deadline to submit a Vendor Screening Form: June 12, 2026

A Vendor Screening Form is the first step in our recruitment process. It is focused on your story and products. The Screening Form is a chance to introduce yourself to our festival team.

Screening Forms are reviewed by our festival team on an ongoing basis until June 12. Due to high demand, we ask that you do not follow up on your submission. We guarantee a response to every screening form.

Once your submission has been reviewed, a member of our team will be in touch. They will provide feedback on whether your product(s) are the right fit for our festival and invite you to submit a formal application accordingly.

Stage 2: Submitting a Vendor Application

Vendors that are selected from the screening process will be invited to complete a formal application.

Stage 3: Interviews & Product Samples

Shortlisted vendors from the application process will be invited for an interview with festival management. Part of the interview process includes an opportunity to showcase samples of your product. Interviews may take place in person at our offices located in Toronto, or via a virtual meeting. Interviews will take place on an ongoing basis, depending on when your application is received.

Stage 4: Final Selection

Successful vendors will be notified as soon as June and no later than August, depending on when your application is reviewed.

4. Vendor Payouts

The Distillery Winter Village engages vendors in a fee structure based on your product category (retail versus food & beverage). Vendor fees are outlined in Stage 2 of the application process.

Weekly Payouts:

Vendors receive a weekly payout during the festival via direct deposit; less expenses owed to the festival.

5. Vendor Hours of Operation

Vendors are required to remain open during the Hours of Operation of The Distillery Winter Village. This includes Christmas Eve (December 24), Boxing Day (December 26), New Year's Eve (December 31), and New Year's Day (January 1).

We are unable to accommodate vendors with partial availability.

2026 FESTIVAL DATES: November 12, 2026 – January 3, 2027

2026 Vendor Cabin Hours of Operation:

Sundays – Thursdays: 11:00am – 9:00pm

Friday: 11:00am-10:00pm

Saturday: 11:00am-10:00pm

Special Operating Hours apply on:

December 24, 2026: 11:00am – 6:00pm

Closed on December 25, 2026

December 31, 2026: 11:00am – 11:59pm

January 3, 2027: 11:00am – 6:00pm

6. Insurance & Damage Deposit

It is mandatory that vendors secure and provide proof of Commercial General Liability Insurance with a \$5 million minimum. Insurance must be valid for the full duration of the event (inclusive of move in and move out periods). The cost of insurance is the sole responsibility of the vendor.

Vendors must provide a damage deposit in the amount of \$5,000 to festival management by way of certified bank draft. The Distillery Historic District does not assume responsibility for loss, damage, theft of equipment, funds received for goods, or products.

7. Parking & Storage

A limited number of parking spaces may be available for vendors to rent for the duration of the event on a first-come, first-served basis. The Distillery Winter Village does not offer on-site storage for vendors at this time.

8. Point of Sale

Vendors are provided with 2 POS terminals for use during the event. Cash payments are not accepted at The Distillery Winter Village. All payments must be processed through the POS terminals provided.



9. Our Cabins

The Distillery Winter Village offers 3 sizes of vendor cabins. Cabin size is assigned by festival management in consultation with the vendor.

Cabin Sizes:

- 6' deep X 6' wide
- 6' deep X 10' wide
- 8' deep X 10' wide

See the final page of this document for additional cabin photos.



^ 6X6 Cabin

^ 6X10 Cabin

^ 8X10 Cabin

10. Cabin Technical Specs

Light & Heat:

All vendor cabins are equipped with 1 basic work light, and 1 basic space heater.

Cabin Power:

Power requirements beyond basic light and heat are the financial responsibility of the vendor and must be secured through The Distillery Winter Village's preferred vendor.

Food & Beverage vendors typically require additional power. This is determined based on your cooking and equipment requirements.

11. Cabin Design & Signage

Vendors are responsible for the interior design of their cabin. This includes additional lighting, display shelves, and decorative elements.

The festival manages the exterior appearance of each cabin to maintain a consistent look across the site. However, the sign displayed on the front peak of the cabin is the vendor's responsibility to design and purchase. See examples below:



12. Food & Beverage Overview

- Vendors who use open-flame equipment are required to cook outdoors. No open-flame equipment is to be used inside of our cabins. We provide you with a designated outdoor cook area adjacent to your cabin.
- At least one certified food handler must be present during food prep and service at all times. Certification must come from a recognized course provider.
- Food and beverage vendors must complete a form provided by The Distillery Winter Village that outlines their food suppliers and types of food being prepared/served.
- You are provided with one handwashing station, free of charge. The handwashing station must reside within the cabin.
- All food must be obtained from an approved source (e.g., inspected meat, poultry, eggs). Approved source means that the facility (kitchen) at which food was prepared, processed, or produced is inspected by a responsible regulatory body (e.g., Toronto Public Health). Food vendors must retain records of purchased foods and be able to verify food sources as required.
- All food must be prepared in a licensed and approved commercial kitchen. Only limited food preparation (e.g., cooking, basic assembly) is permitted on site.
- No home-prepared or home-canned foods shall be used, sold, or given away.

Gas Fitting & Propane:

- Propane tanks must be purchased directly through the event.
 - Any piece of kitchen equipment brought to the site will be inspected by a Gas Fitter and/or The Distillery Winter Village Chefs. Equipment will be inspected before it is permitted for use.
 - A 10' propane hose is required to meet regulatory standards. You have the option to purchase this through the event if you do not own one, or if it is determined upon inspection that your hose does not meet regulatory standards.
 - The gas fitting process is mandatory. Labour charges incurred during the Gas Fitting process will be charged back to the vendor. Cost varies based on the condition of your equipment and the number of propane hook-ups required for your operation. Festival management will provide you with an estimate during Stage 3 of the application process.
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Thank you for your interest in becoming a vendor at The Distillery Winter Village.

Ready to apply? [Click here to submit your Vendor Screening Form](#)



