



Frequently asked questions regarding stalls at the Christmas Market during Winter in Antwerp 2025-2026

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1. What is the difference between Merchandise, Food and Beverages and Gastronomic Experience?

Each stall will be classified by product category: Merchandise, Food and Beverages or Gastronomic Experience.

Merchandise refers to gift items, fashion items or any other merchandise not intended for immediate consumption on site. For example: hats and scarves, socks, toys, candles, olive oil (in a sealed bottle to take home).

Food and Beverages refers to all prepared food and unsealed beverages intended for immediate consumption on site. For example: mulled wine, hot chocolate, hot waffles, fries.

Gastronomic Experience refers to drinks and food actually prepared at the event, with an emphasis on the experience and on a high level of quality. The majority of the products must be prepared in a traditional way on site (food that is processed in an industrial way is therefore not permitted).

2. Can I register for multiple product categories?

A stall can be applied for within multiple product categories or subcategories per event. Only one stall permit can be allocated per business within the same event.

3. Can I sell multiple products from different product categories?

(For example, jewellery and decoration)

This is allowed. However, you must indicate which product is your main item and register under the corresponding subcategory. This product must represent the majority of your total product offering.

4. Can I register for the new product category of "Gastronomic Experience", as well as for Food and Beverages and/or Merchandise?

You can apply for a stall under several product categories, but only one stall will be allocated. If you are allocated a stall in the product category *Gastronomic Experience*, you can no longer take part in the bidding for Food and Beverages or will no longer be included in the evaluation for Merchandise. You will be informed prior to the bidding process whether or not you have been selected for the gastronomic experience category (if you are registered).

5. Why can my business be allocated just one stall?

Only one stall permit can be allocated to the same business within the same event. That way, we can ensure that as many different business owners get a chance to take part in Winter in Antwerp!

6. Am I required to work with reusable catering materials?

Yes. In accordance with Article 5.3.12.2 of the VLAREMA, it is prohibited for Flemish authorities and local governments in their own operations and in events organised by them to serve beverages in single-use containers or to sell prepared food in single-use catering material. The market vendor is obliged to comply with this Flemish legislation. The City of Antwerp will facilitate market vendors at

the Christmas Market during 'Winter in Antwerp'. This applies both to reusable catering materials for beverages, as well as for food. Market vendors are prohibited from providing their own reusable catering material. This is to ensure that there is a clear and simple borrowing and exchanging system for the visitors, market vendors and the organisation.

Market vendors are required to use reusable catering material for all beverages and food provided at the event. No exception will be made for particular foods (such as waffles or fried beignets ('oliebollen')).

7. Am I obliged to work with the reusable catering materials offered by the city?

The City of Antwerp will facilitate market vendors at the Christmas Market during 'Winter in Antwerp'. This applies both to reusable catering materials for beverages, as well as for food. Market vendors are prohibited from providing their own reusable catering material. This is to ensure that there is a clear and simple borrowing and exchanging system for the visitors, market vendors and the organisation.

8. Am I allowed to serve prepared drinks and/or food from a Food & Beverages chalet or Gastronomic Experience chalet in disposable packaging to take away?

No. The Food & Beverages product category is described as: all prepared food and unsealed beverages, intended for immediate consumption on site. For example: mulled wine, hot chocolate, hot waffles, fries.

The main purpose of a Food & Beverages chalet is therefore consumption on site. Food and beverages to take home belong in the product category Merchandise.

Providing prepared food and/or beverages from a Food & Beverages chalet in disposable packaging is therefore not permitted.

Should there be any visitors wishing to take prepared food and/or beverages home, they can always bring their own reusable containers.

9. Can I sublet my stall?

The stall permit will be issued in the name of the applicant and is strictly personal. Transferring the allocated stall and the corresponding permit to third parties or granting third parties rights of any kind is prohibited. The subletting of the stall is not permitted.

10. Why, as a prospective market vendor for Merchandise, am I no longer entitled to an automatic extension?

This is no longer provided for in the new regulations for stalls. Every year, all stalls are placed on the market once again and you can apply for them.

11. May I offer tasters if I am a Merchandise market vendor?

The provision of tasters from the product range is permitted within the Merchandise category, subject to the following conditions:

- Alcoholic drinks cannot be offered as tasters.
- Tasters may only be offered in small quantities and may not be as filling as a meal.
- Tasters must be offered in reusable containers that differ from the reusable containers used in the Food and Beverage product category.

The market vendor or its employees may not ask for any payment whatsoever in return for those tasters.

12. What if I cancel my participation after being allocated a stall?

- When registering, the City of Antwerp assumes that the applicant accepts the allocated stand.
- The cancellation of a stand must be communicated to the City of Antwerp in writing. The cancellation is only considered final once receipt has been confirmed by the City of Antwerp.
- If the standholder cancels their participation more than 12 weeks in advance, the full deposit will be automatically retained. The advance payment of the stand fee will be refunded.
 - If the stand fee was charged and paid in one single amount, it will be refunded in full.
- If the standholder cancels their participation less than 12 weeks but more than 8 weeks before the event, both the deposit and the advance payment will be automatically retained.
 - If the stand fee was charged and paid in one single amount, only 50% will be refunded. If the standholder cancels their participation less than 8 weeks before the opening of the event, the standholder will forfeit the full stand fee paid, as well as the deposit.

13. When can I set up my stall?

A few days before the start of Winter in Antwerp, you will be able to set up your stall. If the City of Antwerp is providing the accommodation, that is when you will be given the key to the accommodation allocated to you. No later than 3 weeks before the start of the Christmas Market, you will receive an email containing the correct date, as well as other practical information.

14. What are the opening hours and dates of the Christmas Market?

Every year, the opening hours and days of Winter in Antwerp are decided on by the College. The Christmas Market follows the general opening hours of Winter in Antwerp. That information can be found at www.winterinantwerpen.be

The market vendor is obliged to adhere strictly to the general opening hours. The stall may only start selling after the opening time and must stop at closing time. As a market vendor, you commit to take part for the entire duration of the Christmas Market, regardless of the weather or the number of visitors.

15. When can I drive my vehicle to the chalet?

Loading and unloading at the event site is authorised from 7 am up until half an hour before the event opens. Without prejudice to Article 245 of the Code of Police Regulations, loading and unloading will be permitted up to one hour after the event closes. Different time slots may apply on the set-up and dismantling days.

16. How much electricity can I use?

Electricity is provided for each stand. The stand fee includes consumption costs for water and electricity related to the operation of the stand. More information about the amount of electricity provided per category and square can be found in the additional terms and conditions.

17. Will a water connection be provided?

On each square, the City of Antwerp provides a tap where market vendors can get running water. The consumption cost is included in the stall fee. Therefore, no tap is provided in the chalet.

18. How many gas cylinders can I bring?

Gas cylinders are only permitted for the preparation of beverages and/or food, and therefore may only be used by those with a Food & Beverages stall. The use of gas cylinders is regulated according to the Police Code. A maximum of five gas cylinders may be present. This is the sum total of full spare cylinders, empty cylinders and the cylinders in use (battery). The water capacity of these five cylinders combined must not exceed 300 litres. The stock of gas cylinders present near the installation (stall) must not exceed 1 day's supply. They must be placed upright, be situated beyond the reach of unauthorised persons and be protected to prevent them from falling over or becoming affected by the sun.

19. Can I place my own terrace furniture or will the City provide it?

Only the vendors of consumption chalets on Operaplein are allowed to bring their own standing tables, subject to certain conditions, which can be found in the additional terms and conditions.

20. What is allowed in terms of decoration?

The terms and conditions for decoration are described in the regulations for market vendors. The City of Antwerp will take care of the general decor for the event. If the city provides accommodation units for market vendors, it will also be responsible for decorating the exterior of the accommodation units. The decoration and lighting applied by the City must remain visible at all times and no alterations may be made to them. The market vendor is required to decorate the inside of the accommodation in the style of the event. All decorations must meet fire safety standards. The market vendor is prohibited from applying commercial advertising on the outside of the provided accommodation or their own accommodation. However, each market vendor is authorised to display price lists on the sales side of the accommodation provided or of their own accommodation, but this must not include publicity of any type. Applying a political, ideological or religious message or

decoration to the stall is strictly forbidden. Unauthorised decoration, communication or installations shall be immediately removed by the City's services at the market vendor's expense.

21. As a market vendor, how must I provide my price lists?

The price list must state all of the products and the corresponding prices. Cross-selling or indicating promotions for alcoholic beverages is not permitted. The price lists must be clearly readable and in a style that corresponds to the decoration and styling of Winter in Antwerp and the market vendor's own stall. Consumption chalets must also mention the deposit on their price lists.

22. Will the Christmas Market close in bad weather?

As a market vendor, you commit yourself for the entire duration of the Christmas Market, during the good and less good days.

The City of Antwerp and the safety services monitor the weather daily. Only if an Orange or a Red weather warning is in force may the City's safety services decide to close the Christmas Market. The day manager of the Christmas Market will communicate this to the market vendors. The explanations of the colour codes can be found on [the 'Warnings' page of the website of the RMI](#).

23. Who is our contact person during the event?

A day manager will be present at the Christmas Market each day. He/she will be an employee of the City of Antwerp. That person is the first point of contact and can be contacted daily from half an hour before the start until half an hour after closing on the number +32 485 923 111.

If you have any questions, you can send an email to winterinantwerpen@antwerpen.be.