

Restaurant Search Tips

Some possible reasons and solutions for common problems in finding inspection information on restaurants:

I entered a restaurant's name and nothing came back.

This often happens when the restaurant owner enters a different name on the permit application than the restaurant commonly goes by.

- ▶ Try using “advanced search” to sort by “borough” and “neighborhood” or zip code and match the list against the street address of the restaurant, if known.

Another reason may be that the name is misspelled in the database.

- ▶ Try using “zip code” or “neighborhood” to help limit the search. Try a search without apostrophes.

New restaurants may not be in the database if the Health Department hasn't done an initial inspection.

- ▶ Check back in after the restaurant has been open for business for a month or so.

Some restaurants may be operating without having required permits and are unknown to the Health Department.

- ▶ Please contact 311 if you suspect a restaurant is operating without a permit.

When I search for a specific cuisine in my neighborhood, the restaurant I am looking for wasn't listed.

Cuisine type is either provided by the operator on the permit application or, if left unanswered, by the inspector during the inspection process. Since restaurants may have multiple cuisine types that may change over time, there is no set standard for providing this information.

- ▶ Try searching under broader cuisine categories or don't include cuisine as a search option.
- ▶ Try searching under zip code, or try selecting a nearby neighborhood. Newly defined neighborhoods are continually being created in NYC (“Vinegar Hill” “Manhattan Valley”) and the restaurant may have been defined as being in a different neighborhood.

I searched for “closed” restaurants to make sure a restaurant I like is still in business and very few came up.

Only those restaurants that have been closed by order of the Health Department for public health and other critical reasons are listed as “closed.” Those closures are typically brief. If a restaurant, for its own reasons, decides to close and does not inform the Health Department, it will be on the website until the department learns of the closure and remove it.

- ▶ If you are unsure whether a restaurant is open for business, contact it directly.