

# Costco Closes Its Food Court to Non-Members, Leaving \$1.50 Hot Dog and Soda Combo Fans Devastated

Shoppers enticed by Costco's \$1.50 hot dog and soda combo, which has stayed the same price since 1985, but not by the wholesale store's \$60 annual membership fees may be out of luck – the company is making its food court “members only.”

And there are reports that Costco is already taking steps to enforce the policy at certain locations. A Reddit user posted on Thursday that at a Costco location in Conroe, Texas, the person at the door checking receipts wanted to see the food court receipt.

Earlier this month, a Costco location in Orlando, Florida posted: “Effective April 8, 2024, an active Costco membership card will be required to purchase items from our food court.”

**Related: Costco May Start Requiring Members to Scan ID to Enter U.S. Warehouses**

In January, a Costco in Issaquah, Washington went further than ever to enforce a member-only space, by asking members to scan their cards before entering the warehouse.

*Costco Kirkland Signature \$1.50 hot dog and soda combo, which has maintained the same price since 1985 despite consumer price increases and inflation, at the food court outside a Costco Wholesale Corp. store on June 14, 2022 in Hawthorne, California. Photo by Patrick T. FALLON / AFP*

According to Costco's earnings report from fiscal year 2023, memberships generated \$4.58 billion in profit, which is 73% of Costco's net profit of \$6.29 billion.

Statista data shows that the 2023 figure was an increase from the \$4.22 billion generated by Costco memberships in 2022 and the \$3.88 billion that memberships brought in for the company in 2021.

Costco memberships start at \$60 per year for a Gold Star or business membership and go up to \$120 annually for an executive membership. Costco has not raised the cost of

memberships for 7 years, since 2017.

**Related: Costco CFO Reveals Uncertain Fate of \$1.50 Hot Dog and Soda Combo**

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