

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Contra Costa County

California · Martinez · FIPS 06013 · Population 1,162,648 ·
Crosodo Index #2173*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

Contra Costa County, California — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

State baseline applies

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under California cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ California home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[California label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

CALIFORNIA: CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2173* · FIPS 06013 · Martinez

Contra Costa County

Population 1,162,648 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Contra Costa County adopted a MEHKO ordinance (Ordinance 2024-05) approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2024, effective July 1, 2024 — initially as a two-year pilot, subsequently codified as Article 413-3.20 of the County Ordinance Code. Contra Costa Health (CCH) Environmental Health Division is the permitting authority for both CFOs and MEHKOs throughout the county (both incorporated and unincorporated areas). Only one MEHKO may operate per residence.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (State preemption (Gov. Code §51035) bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Cities within Contra Costa County may require home occupation permits for other aspects of the business. MEHKO operators must comply with all operational requirements in Ordinance 2024-05 and CCH regulations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (MEHKO: initial inspection before permit issuance; annual inspections (or more frequently for cause). CFO Class B: initial inspection; annual inspection. CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon-complaint only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Contra Costa County adopted a MEHKO ordinance (Ordinance 2024-05) approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2024, effective July 1, 2024 — initially as a two-year pilot, subsequently codified as Article 413-3.20 of the County Ordinance Code. Contra Costa Health (CCH) Environmental Health Division is the permitting authority for both CFOs and MEHKOs throughout the county (both incorporated and unincorporated areas). Only one MEHKO may operate per residence.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline applies
HANDWASHING	State baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — MEHKO: initial inspection before permit issuance; annual inspections (or more frequently for cause). CFO Class B: initial inspection; annual inspection. CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon-complaint only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — State preemption (Gov. Code §51035) bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Cities within Contra Costa County may require home occupation permits for other aspects of the business. MEHKO operators must comply with all operational requirements in Ordinance 2024-05 and CCH regulations.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	MEHKO: meals for dine-in, take-out, and delivery; MEHKO may also serve as a commissary for permitted food carts. CFO: direct/indirect sales within California only. Delivery must comply with Cal. Health & Safety Code §114367.5. MEHKO permit must not be used as outdoor advertising.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	MEHKO: all participating persons must obtain Contra Costa County Food Handler Certification within 30 days of joining. State baseline (1 FTE) for CFO.

Relevant county code

Contra Costa County Ordinance Code Article 413-3.20 (MEHKO, eff. July 1, 2024); Cal. Health & Safety Code §§114367–114367.6

RESEARCH NOTES

Contra Costa County is a MEHKO opt-in county — the ordinance applies countywide (both incorporated and unincorporated areas), making it broader than some other CA MEHKO adoptions. The MEHKO is capped at 30 meals/day, 90 meals/week, and \$100,000 gross annual sales. MEHKO permit year runs March 1 through February 28/29; renewable annually; not transferable. All persons at the MEHKO must get Contra Costa County Food Handler Certification within 30 days of joining the operation. CCH annual inspection required.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cchealth.org>

<https://www.contracosta.gov>

<https://www.cchealth.org/about-contra-costa-health/divisions/environmental-health/home-kitchens>

<https://contra-costa.legistar.com/View.ashx?GUID=2B7962AC-CDFC-4451-8FAB-32732456A5AE&ID=12958845&M=F>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/california/contra-costa-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Contra Costa County	Sacramento County	Alameda County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	No animals inside kitchen/ dining areas during MEHKO operations (MEHKO SOP requirement). State baseline applies for CFOs.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	MEHKO: meals for dine-in, take-out, and delivery; MEHKO may also serve as a commissary for permitted food carts. CFO: direct/ indirect sales...	Direct/indirect sales within California only. Permit valid for one location; must apply for new permit if operator moves.	CFO: direct/indirect sales within California only. MEHKO: on-site dining, pickup, delivery by operator/staff. MEHKO food must be prepared a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Yes	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Contra Costa County adopted a MEHKO ordinance (Ordinance 2024-05) approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2024, effective July 1, ...	Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. Operators must also ...	Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (ACDEH) administers both CFO Class A/B registrations/permits and the MEHKO program. CFO a...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	State baseline applies
POPULATION	1,162,648	1,579,211	1,663,823

State context — California cottage food law

Contra Costa County's rules sit on top of California's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Class B permit holders may sell indirectly through retail stores and restaurants statewide; Class A registrants are limited to direct sales only and may not sell through any retail or wholesale venue.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **California cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/california.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

State dept cottage food page: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/california/>

Questions about Contra Costa County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/california/contra-costa-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Contra Costa County, California. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/california/contra-costa-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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