

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lake County

California · Lakeport · FIPS 06033 · Population 68,024 ·
Crosodo Index #1679*

STATE BASELINE

CA Health & Safety Code §114365 et seq. (AB 1616, AB 1252)

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.

CALIFORNIA: LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1679* · FIPS 06033 · Lakeport

Lake County

Population 68,024 · State baseline: CA Health & Safety Code §114365 et seq. (AB 1616, AB 1252) ·

HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Class A (direct sales only): annual self-certification registration with Lake County Environmental Health required. Class B (direct + indirect sales): annual permit plus initial kitchen inspection required. Annual sales cap \$75,000 (Class A and B combined). Food processor training course required within 3 months of registering. Only CDPH-approved food list items permitted (non-PHF baked goods, candies, jams, etc.).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified but standard sanitation expected

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (All CFOs must obtain approval from local city or county planning department in addition to Environmental Health registration/permit. Planning department requirements vary by jurisdiction. Sellers Permits from Board of Equalization and city/county Business Licenses may also be required. Lake County Environmental Health administers registrations/permits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class B: initial inspection before permit; Class A: no routine inspection. Both: complaint-based inspection possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Class A (direct sales only): annual self-certification registration with Lake County Environmental Health required. Class B (direct + indirect sales): annual permit plus initial kitchen inspection required. Annual sales cap \$75,000 (Class A and B combined). Food processor training course required within 3 months of registering. Only CDPH-approved food list items permitted (non-PHF baked goods, candies, jams, etc.).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified but standard sanitation expected
WATER SUPPLY	Approved potable water source
HANDWASHING	Sanitary operations required; food processor training covers handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-PHF products; no acidified or low-acid canned foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — Class B: initial inspection before permit; Class A: no routine inspection. Both: complaint-based inspection possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — All CFOs must obtain approval from local city or county planning department in addition to Environmental Health registration/permit. Planning department requirements vary by jurisdiction. Sellers Permits from Board of Equalization and city/county Business Licenses may also be required. Lake County Environmental Health administers registrations/permits.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales from home or at community events within California. Class B: direct and indirect sales through retailers/restaurants within California. Both must be within-state only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One full-time equivalent non-family employee permitted

Relevant county code

Lake County Environmental Health - Cottage Food Operations; CA Health & Safety Code §114365

RESEARCH NOTES

Lake County CA has a dedicated Cottage Food Operations page under Environmental Health. Two-tier Class A/Class B system applies. Class B requires initial kitchen inspection. Planning department approval also required. One non-family FTE employee allowed. Sales cap \$75,000. Food processor training course required within 3 months of registering. County has county-specific CFO documentation on .gov website.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov>

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/355/Cottage-Food-Operations>

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1074/Operator-Overview-PDF>

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1069/California-Homemade-Food-Act-PDF>

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

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/california/lake-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lake County	Mendocino County	Napa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified but standard sanitation expected	No specific state prohibition for cottage food; good manufacturing practices recommend keeping pets out of food preparation areas.	Not explicitly prohibited in state statute; local health department may have requirements during inspection.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales from home or at community events within California. Class B: direct and indirect sales through retailers/restaurants ...	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within California). Class B: also allows retail stores and restaurants. N...	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within CA). Class B: also permits retail stores and restaurants. All sale...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	No	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Class A (direct sales only): annual self-certification registration with Lake County Environmental Health required. Class B (direct + indir...	California two-tier cottage food system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206/year cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, ...	Class A (direct sales only, annual cap ~\$86,206 CPI-adjusted): no home kitchen inspection required. Class B (direct and indirect sales, ann...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-PHF products; no acidified or low-acid canned foods	Only CDPH-approved non-PHF shelf-stable foods; must prevent contamination.	Only approved state CFO food list items allowed. Non-potentially hazardous, no refrigeration required for finished products. Stored in food...
POPULATION	68,024	91,145	137,384

State context — California cottage food law

Lake 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](#).

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?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Lake County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/california/lake-county-discuss>
