

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Riverside County

California · Riverside · FIPS 06065 · Population 2,429,487 ·
Crosodo Index #1931*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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: RIVERSIDE COUNTY

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Riverside County

Population 2,429,487 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Riverside University Health System – Environmental Health administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Riverside County as of research date – standard CFO program only. State preemption bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (California Gov. Code §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Cities within Riverside County may require home occupation permits for other business aspects. No county-specific home occupation permit requirement identified for CFOs in unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class A: no routine inspection; complaint-based. Class B: annual inspection required for permit issuance/renewal.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes – Riverside University Health System – Environmental Health administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Riverside County as of research date – standard CFO program only. State preemption bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs.
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	Conditional — Class A: no routine inspection; complaint-based. Class B: annual inspection required for permit issuance/renewal.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — California Gov. Code §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Cities within Riverside County may require home occupation permits for other business aspects. No county-specific home occupation permit requirement identified for CFOs in unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct/indirect sales within California only. State baseline applies. Operator may hire up to 1 full-time employee.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 full-time employee (state baseline)

Relevant county code

none county-specific found beyond state law

RESEARCH NOTES

Riverside County follows the standard California CFO framework. No MEHKO opt-in was confirmed based on available research. Riverside University Health System (ruhealth.org) is the local enforcement agency for both CFO registrations/permits and food safety. State law preempts local zoning from restricting CFOs.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ruhealth.org>

<https://countyofriverside.us>

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

<https://www.ruhealth.org>

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

State context — California cottage food law

Riverside 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.

<p>STATUTE Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758</p> <p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes</p> <p>KITCHEN INSPECTION No</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered (see notes)</p> <p>FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)</p> <p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
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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 Riverside County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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