

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Sierra County

California · Downieville · FIPS 06091 · Population 3,113 ·  
Crosodo Index #3124\*

## STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	Tiered (see notes)	MEDIUM	2026-05-06

**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: SIERRA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3124\* · FIPS 06091 · Downieville

# Sierra County

Population 3,113 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

True

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

False

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

True (California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Sierra County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Extremely rural and sparsely populated northern Sierra Nevada county (population under 3,000). Contact Sierra County Environmental Health for registration.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

True

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health (Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection)

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

True

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**

False

**PET RESTRICTIONS**

No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

**WATER SUPPLY**

Potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab

**HANDWASHING**

Required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance

**FOOD STORAGE**

Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

### Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**

Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**

True — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Sierra County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Extremely rural and sparsely populated northern Sierra Nevada county (population under 3,000). Contact Sierra County Environmental Health for registration.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**

County has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Sierra County

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

### Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

No Sierra County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. One of California’s least populous counties with no incorporated cities. CFO registration/permit obtained through Sierra County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

[https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/government/departments/environmental\\_health](https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/government/departments/environmental_health)

<https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/government/departments/planning>

<https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov>

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=113758](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=113758)

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO\\_Faq.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/sierra-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sierra County	Lassen County	Plumas County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	<b>True</b>	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	<b>False</b>	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	<b>No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production</b>	No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	<b>Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health</b>	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	<b>True</b>	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	<b>No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales</b>	No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales	No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP	<b>Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law</b>	Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law	Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	<b>True</b>	True	True
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	<b>County has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Sierra Coun...</b>	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Susanville may require city business license	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Plumas County
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	<b>Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous</b>	Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous	Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous
POPULATION	<b>2,916</b>	31,873	19,650

## State context — California cottage food law

Sierra 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><b>STATUTE</b> Cal. Health &amp; Safety Code §113758</p> <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes</p> <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No</p> <p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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><b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> Tiered (see notes)</p> <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)</p> <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> 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.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=113758](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=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](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 Sierra County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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