

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sonoma County

California · Santa Rosa · FIPS 06097 · Population 488,436 ·
Crosodo Index #1688*

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.

CALIFORNIA: SONOMA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1688* · FIPS 06097 · Santa Rosa

Sonoma County

Population 488,436 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Sonoma County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, annual permit, annual inspection. Local zoning/planning criteria apply to both classes. Septic system requirements apply if not on municipal sewer.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Sonoma County Environmental Health explicitly states operators must contact Permit Sonoma for specific zoning requirements (building department). Zoning criteria include parking, noise, traffic control, density. Class A and B CFOs must contact local city or county planning department. Permit Sonoma (permitsonoma.org) governs unincorporated Sonoma County. For properties within cities (Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sonoma, etc.), contact the respective city planning department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class A: no inspection except upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit and annually thereafter.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Sonoma County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, annual permit, annual inspection. Local zoning/planning criteria apply to both classes. Septic system requirements apply if not on municipal sewer.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation
WATER SUPPLY	Must demonstrate kitchen connected to approved water source. If on septic system: Permit Sonoma has specific septic requirements per county Ordinance #6498 amendments
HANDWASHING	Food handler training required within 3 months of registration/permit
FOOD STORAGE	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — Class A: no inspection except upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Sonoma County Environmental Health explicitly states operators must contact Permit Sonoma for specific zoning requirements (building department). Zoning criteria include parking, noise, traffic control, density. Class A and B CFOs must contact local city or county planning department. Permit Sonoma (permitsonoma.org) governs unincorporated Sonoma County. For properties within cities (Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sonoma, etc.), contact the respective city planning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales at residence, farmers markets, bake sales, farm stands, community events. Class B: adds wholesale to local shops and restaurants. Both limited to within Sonoma County/California. One full-time equivalent non-family employee allowed. To sell at community events, a temporary food facility permit required.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One full-time equivalent non-family/household employee allowed

Relevant county code

Sonoma County Environmental Health CFO Program. Permit Sonoma (zoning). Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758.

RESEARCH NOTES

Sonoma County official Environmental Health page and Permit Sonoma pages both retrieved. Environmental Health page explicitly states operators must contact Permit Sonoma for zoning requirements and lists parking, noise, traffic, density as factors. Permit Sonoma has dedicated septic requirements for cottage foods (Ordinance #6498). County also allows MEHKO (Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations) under AB 626 per Permit Sonoma page. Confidence high: official county sources retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sonomacounty.gov/health>

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov>

[https://sonomacounty.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/environmental-health/programs-and-services/food-safety-program/cottage-food-operations-\(cfos\)](https://sonomacounty.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/environmental-health/programs-and-services/food-safety-program/cottage-food-operations-(cfos))

<https://permitsonoma.org/divisions/engineeringandconstruction/wellandsepticssystems/septicssystems/cottagefoodssepticrequirements>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sonoma County	Solano County	Contra Costa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production.	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Upon-complaint	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales at residence, farmers markets, bake sales, farm stands, community events. Class B: adds wholesale to local shops and ...	Class A: direct to consumer sales only (in-person, online, delivery within California). Class B: may also sell to retail stores and restaur...	MEHKO: meals for dine-in, take-out, and delivery; MEHKO may also serve as a commissary for permitted food carts. CFO: direct/indirect sales...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Sonoma County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ...	California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales, annual cap ~\$86,206 as of 2025) and Class B (...)	Contra Costa County adopted a MEHKO ordinance (Ordinance 2024-05) approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2024, effective July 1, ...
FOOD STORAGE	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only	Non-TCS, shelf-stable foods only per state-approved list.	State baseline applies
POPULATION	488,436	450,995	1,162,648

State context — California cottage food law

Sonoma 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 Sonoma County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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