

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lake County

Illinois · Waukegan · FIPS 17097 · Population 713,159 ·
Crosodo Index #1235*

STATE BASELINE

410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act; 2022 amendment PA 102-0633)

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Great	—	MEDIUM	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.

ILLINOIS: LAKE COUNTY

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Lake County

Population 713,159 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act; 2022 amendment PA 102-0633) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline applies. Registration with Lake County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Some local health departments may impose additional requirements per §410 ILCS 625/4(d).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Lake County is largely incorporated (Waukegan, North Chicago, Gurnee, Libertyville, Vernon Hills, etc.) with separate municipal home occupation permit rules. Contact relevant municipality's planning department. Lake County Planning, Building & Development governs unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Lake County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies. Registration with Lake County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Some local health departments may impose additional requirements per §410 ILCS 625/4(d).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Food Safety Manager certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; perishables may be sold directly but not shipped

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Lake County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Lake County is largely incorporated (Waukegan, North Chicago, Gurnee, Libertyville, Vernon Hills, etc.) with separate municipal home occupation permit rules. Contact relevant municipality's planning department. Lake County Planning, Building & Development governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer statewide. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. No out-of-state shipping. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

410 ILCS 625/4; Lake County Health Department registration; municipal home occupation codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

Lake County IL follows Illinois state baseline. Registration with the Lake County Health Department required. CFPM certification required under state law. No Lake County-specific modification of state cottage food rules found. The county is largely suburban Chicago with many incorporated municipalities.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/planning>

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov>

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

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

State context — Illinois cottage food law

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

STATUTE 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Illinois prohibits sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale; direct in-state sales are allowed anywhere including home, online, farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Illinois cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

State dept cottage food page: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

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

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/illinois/lake-county-discuss>
