

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Hamilton County

Indiana · Noblesville · FIPS 18057 · Population 349,527 ·  
Crosodo Index #1980\*

## STATE BASELINE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 (HBV); food handler certificate required (ANAB-accredited); no license;  
direct sales only; no annual sales cap

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.

**INDIANA: HAMILTON COUNTY**

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Population 349,527 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 (HBV); food handler certificate required (ANAB-accredited); no license; direct sales only; no annual sales cap · **MEDIUM**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Food prepared at producer’s primary residence only; non-TCS foods only; ANAB-accredited food handler certificate required; label must state product not for resale and not inspected)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Good sanitation practices required; no specific state pet rule but kitchen cleanliness standards apply

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Hamilton County Health Dept page ([hamiltoncounty.in.gov/268/Home-Based-Vendors](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/268/Home-Based-Vendors)) addresses HBV state rules. Local municipalities (Noblesville, Carmel, Fishers, Westfield) may require home occupation permits under their zoning ordinances; operator should verify with local city planning)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (IDOH may investigate complaints of unsafe food or foodborne illness; no routine inspections)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Food prepared at producer’s primary residence only; non-TCS foods only; ANAB-accredited food handler certificate required; label must state product not for resale and not inspected
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Good sanitation practices required; no specific state pet rule but kitchen cleanliness standards apply
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water at residence
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard handwashing required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Stored in sanitary conditions at residence

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — IDOH may investigate complaints of unsafe food or foodborne illness; no routine inspections
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Hamilton County Health Dept page ( <a href="http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/268/Home-Based-Vendors">hamiltoncounty.in.gov/268/Home-Based-Vendors</a> ) addresses HBV state rules. Local municipalities (Noblesville, Carmel, Fishers, Westfield) may require home occupation permits under their zoning ordinances; operator should verify with local city planning
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	In-person, telephone, internet sales allowed; delivery in-person, by mail, or third-party carrier within Indiana only; not for resale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level

**Relevant county code**

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Hamilton County Health Dept has a dedicated HBV page confirming state rules apply. County is one of fastest-growing in Indiana; multiple incorporated cities each with own zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay beyond state rules found.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov>

[https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-\(cottage-foods\)/](https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-(cottage-foods)/)

<https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/268/Home-Based-Vendors>

<https://ag.purdue.edu/department/foodsci/home-based-vendors.html>

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

## State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

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<b>STATUTE</b> Ind. Code §16-42-5.2	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> No — Sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale are prohibited; producers may sell at events, farmers markets, home, online, and roadside stands only.	

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://iga.in.gov/laws/2022/ic/titles/016/articles/042/chapters/005.2>

State dept cottage food page: [https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-\(cottage-foods\)/](https://www.in.gov/health/food-protection/home-based-vendor-(cottage-foods)/)

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/indiana/hamilton-county-discuss>

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