

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Howard County

Indiana · Kokomo · FIPS 18067 · Population 83,452 · Crosodo Index #2115\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Ind. Code §16-42-5.2	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: HOWARD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2115\* · FIPS 18067 · Kokomo

# Howard County

Population 83,452 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Indiana home-based vendor law: no license required; food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) must be provided to local health department. Only non-potentially hazardous non-TCS foods allowed. No acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces, ketchup, juices), no perishable baked goods, no low-acid canned foods. Direct sales only within Indiana. Whole eggs, traditional pickles not in oxygen-sealed containers, nut butters, syrups, and dried goods are allowed.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Howard County and the City of Kokomo may have home occupation ordinances. Indiana law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements specifically for home-based vendor operations, but local zoning rules may still apply. Producers should check with Howard County Planning or City of Kokomo zoning.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection. Local health departments may investigate upon complaint. Indiana law preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Indiana home-based vendor law: no license required; food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) must be provided to local health department. Only non-potentially hazardous non-TCS foods allowed. No acidified foods (pickles, salsas, sauces, ketchup, juices), no perishable baked goods, no low-acid canned foods. Direct sales only within Indiana. Whole eggs, traditional pickles not in oxygen-sealed containers, nut butters, syrups, and dried goods are allowed.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific statutory requirement.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific statutory requirement for home kitchen infrastructure.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	No specific statutory storage requirement.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection. Local health departments may investigate upon complaint. Indiana law preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Howard County and the City of Kokomo may have home occupation ordinances. Indiana law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements specifically for home-based vendor operations, but local zoning rules may still apply. Producers should check with Howard County Planning or City of Kokomo zoning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, online within Indiana, at events, farmers markets, and other venues are permitted. No wholesale to distributors or restaurants.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in Indiana cottage food law.

**Relevant county code**

No Howard County-specific cottage food code identified. Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 governs (HEA 1149, 2022 amendments).

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Howard County (Kokomo) follows Indiana's home-based vendor law. Indiana's 2022 HEA 1149 preempts local licensing and inspection requirements for home-based vendors. Food handler certificate required (ANSI-accredited, must be provided to local health department). No acidified foods allowed. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official ISDH source; county-level rules not verified.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

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

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

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

## State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

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

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