

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Monroe County

Indiana · Bloomington · FIPS 18105 · Population 140,065 ·
Crosodo Index #1575*

STATE BASELINE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 / HEA 1149 (2022), codified as IC §16-42-5.3

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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.

INDIANA: MONROE COUNTY

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Monroe County

Population 140,065 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 / HEA 1149 (2022), codified as IC §16-42-5.3

HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Under the 2022 HEA 1149 framework: products must be non-potentially hazardous, made at the individual’s primary residence, and sold only at roadside stands or farmers markets (per pre-2022 HBV guidance from Monroe County Health Department). However, the 2022 law expanded sales venues; state law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) must be provided to the local health department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not explicitly prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Monroe County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones (unincorporated areas). Business registration required; use must be secondary to residential character; no more than normal residential traffic levels permitted. City of Bloomington has its own rules that differ from county-level regulations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Monroe County Health Department investigates foodborne illness complaints. No routine pre-operational inspection required under state law (state preempts local inspection requirements per HEA 1149).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Under the 2022 HEA 1149 framework: products must be non-potentially hazardous, made at the individual’s primary residence, and sold only at roadside stands or farmers markets (per pre-2022 HBV guidance from Monroe County Health Department). However, the 2022 law expanded sales venues; state law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) must be provided to the local health department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required. Monroe County Health Department guidance emphasizes handwashing with warm water and soap for 10-15 seconds at designated intervals.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Products stored per Monroe County Health Department guidance in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Monroe County Health Department investigates foodborne illness complaints. No routine pre-operational inspection required under state law (state preempts local inspection requirements per HEA 1149).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Monroe County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones (unincorporated areas). Business registration required; use must be secondary to residential character; no more than normal residential traffic levels permitted. City of Bloomington has its own rules that differ from county-level regulations.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Monroe County limits or prohibits customer visits to home businesses — no increase in traffic beyond normal residential levels. State law (post-2022 HEA 1149) expanded allowable sales venues statewide; but Monroe County’s zoning-level home occupation rules limit customer traffic.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State law: not specified. County home occupation rules: no non-resident employees typical for home occupation permits.

Relevant county code

Monroe County Code of Ordinances (home occupation provisions); Indiana IC §16-42-5.3

RESEARCH NOTES

Monroe County Health Department food safety page confirmed ([in.gov/counties/monroe](https://www.in.gov/counties/monroe)). Monroe County Health Department HBV Guidance Document (PDF, Rev. 12/2020) retrieved via Exa search — explicitly states products may be sold only at farmers markets and roadside stands (pre-2022 guidance, state law now broader). CityRuleLookup confirms Monroe County has home occupation permit requirement for home-based businesses, with restrictions on customer traffic. City of Bloomington has separate (potentially different) cottage food rules. County health URL, planning URL, and govt URL all confirmed in input data.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

<https://www.monroecounty.gov>

<https://www.in.gov/counties/monroe/government/health-department/food-safety/>

https://www.co.monroe.in.us/egov/documents/1608579852_39089.pdf

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/monroe-county-in>

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

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

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

State context — Indiana cottage food law

Monroe 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.

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

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

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/>

Questions?

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

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