

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Porter County

Indiana · Valparaiso · FIPS 18127 · Population 173,355 ·
Crosodo Index #1250*

STATE BASELINE

Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 (updated to IC 16-42-5.3 per 2022 HEA 1149)

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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: PORTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1250* · FIPS 18127 · Valparaiso

Porter County

Population 173,355 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 (updated to IC 16-42-5.3 per 2022 HEA 1149) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale or interstate sales. Food handler certification (ANSI-accredited) required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Indiana 2022 HEA 1149 preempts local licensing/inspection for home-based vendors. Porter County may require home occupation zoning permit. County URLs were blank in input.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State law preempts local inspection requirements. ISDH may inspect upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale or interstate sales. Food handler certification (ANSI-accredited) required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food handler certification training.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for non-PHF products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State law preempts local inspection requirements. ISDH may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Indiana 2022 HEA 1149 preempts local licensing/inspection for home-based vendors. Porter County may require home occupation zoning permit. County URLs were blank in input.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, online with in-state delivery. No sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

IC 16-42-5.3; no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Porter County (Valparaiso, near Chicago area) has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond Indiana state baseline. County URLs were blank in input. State preempts local licensing/inspection.

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)/)

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Porter County	LaPorte County	Lake County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation practices apply.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, online with in-state delivery. No sales cap.	Indiana allows direct sales only: from home, online, farmers markets, events. No wholesale to restaurants or retail stores. Interstate sale...	Direct sales to consumers only within Indiana: home, farmers markets, events, online. No annual sales cap. No wholesale to stores or restau...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales only; no wholesale or interstate sales. Food handler certification (ANSI-accredited) req...	Indiana 2022 law allows home-based vendor sales of most nonperishable foods from home kitchen. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) m...	Non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods only. No registration required. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) required and must be p...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage for non-PHF products.	Nonperishable (non-PHF) products. Fermented products allowed if not in oxygen-sealed containers. Acidified foods in oxygen-sealed container...	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods
POPULATION	173,355	112,215	497,682

State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

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