

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

St. Joseph County

Indiana · South Bend · FIPS 18141 · Population 272,388 ·
Crosodo Index #1259*

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: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1259* · FIPS 18141 · South Bend

St. Joseph County

Population 272,388 · State baseline: Ind. Code §16-42-5.2 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must have ANSI-accredited food handler certificate provided to local health department. Sales are direct-to-consumer only. No retail/wholesale. State law preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements (IC 16-42-5.3, 2022 HEA 1149).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; home kitchen must be clean and sanitary

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State law (IC 16-42-5.3) preempts local governments from requiring licensing or inspection of home-based vendors. However, South Bend/St. Joseph County may still require a general business license or home occupation permit under local zoning. Producers should check with St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint or foodborne illness investigation; state law limits local health dept inspection authority)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must have ANSI-accredited food handler certificate provided to local health department. Sales are direct-to-consumer only. No retail/wholesale. State law preempts local governments from adding licensing or inspection requirements (IC 16-42-5.3, 2022 HEA 1149).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; home kitchen must be clean and sanitary
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required per food handler training
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated finished products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint or foodborne illness investigation; state law limits local health dept inspection authority
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State law (IC 16-42-5.3) preempts local governments from requiring licensing or inspection of home-based vendors. However, South Bend/St. Joseph County may still require a general business license or home occupation permit under local zoning. Producers should check with St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only: home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, events. No wholesale, no consignment, no restaurant sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law

Relevant county code

Ind. Code §16-42-5.3 (Home Based Food Products); St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Indiana state law (IC 16-42-5.3, enacted HEA 1149 2022) is the operative cottage food statute, preempting local health dept licensing/inspection. St. Joseph County follows state baseline. No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. The state requires food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) submitted to local health dept. No sales cap. Confidence medium – state law confirmed but no direct St. Joseph County .gov source for local zoning rules found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sjcindiana.com>

[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.sjcindiana.com>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	St. Joseph County	Elkhart County	LaPorte County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified; home kitchen must be clean and sanitary	No explicit state-level pet restriction in Indiana home-based vendor statute. Standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only: home pickup, delivery, farmers markets, events. No wholesale, no consignment, no restaurant sales.	Indiana home-based vendor law (2022) allows sales from home, online, farmers markets, and other venues. Home pickup and delivery permitted....	Indiana allows direct sales only: from home, online, farmers markets, events. No wholesale to restaurants or retail stores. Interstate sale...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must have ANSI-accredited food handler certificate provided to local health department. Sales are dir...	Indiana home-based vendor law (IC 16-42-5.3, enacted 2022 HEA 1149) allows sales of most non-PHF (non-potentially hazardous) foods from hom...	Indiana 2022 law allows home-based vendor sales of most nonperishable foods from home kitchen. Food handler certificate (ANSI-accredited) m...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated finished products	Non-PHF foods only; no refrigerated items. Standard GMP storage practices.	Nonperishable (non-PHF) products. Fermented products allowed if not in oxygen-sealed containers. Acidified foods in oxygen-sealed container...
POPULATION	272,388	206,841	112,215

State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

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

Classifieds Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

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Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in St. Joseph County, Indiana. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/indiana/st-joseph-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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