

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Vanderburgh County

Indiana · Evansville · FIPS 18163 · Population 179,900 ·
Crosodo Index #1242*

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: VANDERBURGH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1242* · FIPS 18163 · Evansville

Vanderburgh County

Population 179,900 · 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 to end consumer only; no wholesale or interstate sales. Food handler certification (ANSI-accredited) required. Certificate must be provided to local health department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Indiana 2022 HEA 1149 (IC 16-42-5.3) expressly preempts local licensing/inspection for home-based vendors. However, Vanderburgh County and Evansville may require home occupation zoning permits for home-based businesses separately from food licensing. 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 consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Direct sales to end consumer only; no wholesale or interstate sales. Food handler certification (ANSI-accredited) required. Certificate must be provided to local health department.
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 consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Indiana 2022 HEA 1149 (IC 16-42-5.3) expressly preempts local licensing/inspection for home-based vendors. However, Vanderburgh County and Evansville may require home occupation zoning permits for home-based businesses separately from food licensing. 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 cap on annual sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No on-site non-household employees per typical home occupation zoning conditions.

Relevant county code

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

RESEARCH NOTES

Vanderburgh County (Evansville) has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond Indiana state baseline. County URLs were blank in input. State law preempts local licensing/inspection requirements per 2022 HEA 1149. Food handler certification required.

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/vanderburgh-county-discuss>

State context — Indiana cottage food law

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

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