

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Kenton County

Kentucky · Covington · FIPS 21117 · Population 169,066 ·
Crosodo Index #2328*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
KRS §217.137	Okay	60000	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.

KENTUCKY: KENTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2328* · FIPS 21117 · Covington

Kenton County

Population 169,066 · State baseline: KRS §217.137 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Registration required (\$50/year). Non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, fruit butters, dried goods, syrups (maple/sorghum only), granola, and similar shelf-stable items allowed. Annual sales cap \$60,000. Direct sales only. Acidified foods, pickles, salsas, nut butters, oils, vinegars, fermented foods, juices, and meats prohibited under standard pathway.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators (commercial equipment prohibited).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Kenton County unincorporated areas may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. County seat 'Covington' was blank in input — confirmed as Covington. County is highly urbanized (part of greater Cincinnati metro). County URLs were blank in input.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspections under standard home-based processor pathway. State may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Registration required (\$50/year). Non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, fruit butters, dried goods, syrups (maple/sorghum only), granola, and similar shelf-stable items allowed. Annual sales cap \$60,000. Direct sales only. Acidified foods, pickles, salsas, nut butters, oils, vinegars, fermented foods, juices, and meats prohibited under standard pathway.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators (commercial equipment prohibited).
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; commercial storage equipment not permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — No routine inspections under standard home-based processor pathway. State may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Kenton County unincorporated areas may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses. County seat 'Covington' was blank in input — confirmed as Covington. County is highly urbanized (part of greater Cincinnati metro). 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 only within Kentucky. No online sales with out-of-state shipping.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only residents of the dwelling may produce; commercial equipment and separate commercial kitchen prohibited.

Relevant county code

KRS §217.136 (home-based processor) / §217.137 (home-based microprocessor); no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

County seat was blank in input — confirmed as Covington (part of Cincinnati metro, northern Kentucky). Kenton County has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond Kentucky state baseline. Input cites §217.137 (microprocessor) but primary cottage food provision is §217.136. Kentucky \$60,000 cap confirmed by state baseline. Commercial equipment and separate commercial kitchen explicitly prohibited is a distinctive Kentucky restriction.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>
<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=44478>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Kenton County	Boone County	Campbell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; no more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and three refrigerators (commercial equipment prohibited).	Not explicitly prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.	No specific restriction stated; kitchen use restrictions apply (no commercial equipment).
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 only within Kentucky. No online sales with out-of-state shipping.	Direct sales only. Sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, and at festivals/events. No wholesale or indirect sales to retail sto...	Direct sales only to consumers. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or mail order.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Registration required (\$50/year). Non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, fruit butters, dried goods, syrups (maple/sorghum only), gra...	Annual gross sales capped at \$60,000. Registration (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090). No more than two non-commercial ranges/ovens and no more tha...	Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136): \$60,000 annual sales cap. Registration required (\$50/year, 902 KAR 45:090). Complaint-bas...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; commercial storage equipment not permitted.	Non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams and jellies, fruit butters, dried goods, syrups (maple and sorghum only), granola, snacks. Refrigerators...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; kitchen equipment limited to residential-scale appliances.
POPULATION	169,066	136,150	93,122

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

Kenton County’s rules sit on top of Kentucky’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE KRS §217.137	ANNUAL SALES CAP 60000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Sales limited to direct-to-consumer only within Kentucky — from home (pickup or delivery), markets, roadside stands, community events, and online; shipping outside Kentucky is prohibited, and sales to restaurants or retail stores for resale are not allowed.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=44478>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/kentucky/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/kentucky/kenton-county-discuss>
