

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Allegheny County

Pennsylvania · Pittsburgh · FIPS 42003 · Population  
1,245,310 · Crosodo Index #1690\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	Good	—	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.

PENNSYLVANIA: ALLEGHENY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1690\* · FIPS 42003 · Pittsburgh

# Allegheny County

Population 1,245,310 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Allegheny County follows Pennsylvania state baseline for Limited Food Establishments. Unlike Philadelphia County, Allegheny County is eligible for the PA LFE registration program. All material must be submitted to PDA at least 60 days prior to operating. An initial on-site inspection is required before registration is issued. Registration is \$35/year (2-year cycle at \$35).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

State baseline applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Operators must obtain local municipality zoning approval before applying to PDA for the LFE registration. In Allegheny County, municipalities include Pittsburgh and many surrounding townships/boroughs, each with their own zoning codes. Cities of McKeesport, Penn Hills, and Pittsburgh have their own cottage food rules.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (PDA inspects the production site on a routine basis as part of registration. Initial on-site inspection required before registration issuance.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Allegheny County follows Pennsylvania state baseline for Limited Food Establishments. Unlike Philadelphia County, Allegheny County is eligible for the PA LFE registration program. All material must be submitted to PDA at least 60 days prior to operating. An initial on-site inspection is required before registration is issued. Registration is \$35/year (2-year cycle at \$35).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	State baseline applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	State baseline applies; well water users may need testing
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	State baseline applies
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	State baseline applies

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — PDA inspects the production site on a routine basis as part of registration. Initial on-site inspection required before registration issuance.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Operators must obtain local municipality zoning approval before applying to PDA for the LFE registration. In Allegheny County, municipalities include Pittsburgh and many surrounding townships/boroughs, each with their own zoning codes. Cities of McKeesport, Penn Hills, and Pittsburgh have their own cottage food rules.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies by city

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Registration includes sales direct from production site including internet sales; interstate sales may require FDA registration. Retail Food Facility License may be required for farmers market or event sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

### Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; PDA LFE Application Packet (Rev 3/2024)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Allegheny County follows PA state baseline (unlike Philadelphia County which is excluded from the LFE program). The PA LFE registration requires: local zoning approval, initial on-site inspection, and \$35/year fee. PDA processes applications within 15 business days. Key difference from Philadelphia: Allegheny County operators can use a home kitchen — they don’t need NSF/ANSI equipment in a commercially zoned property. Cities of McKeesport, Penn Hills, and Pittsburgh may have their own additional rules.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us>

<https://pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/food-safety/limited-food-establishment-.html>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/allegheny-county-pa>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Allegheny County	Westmoreland County	Washington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	Pets excluded from food production areas during production	PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed during inspe...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Registration includes sales direct from production site including internet sales; interstate sales may require FDA registration. Retail Foo...	Direct to consumer and limited indirect sales (farmer's markets, retail); no online-only sales without physical presence permitted under st...	PA LFE permits direct sales to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup, delivery, and farm...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Allegheny County follows Pennsylvania state baseline for Limited Food Establishments. Unlike Philadelphia County, Allegheny County is eligi...	Must register as Limited Food Establishment with PA Dept of Agriculture; kitchen inspection required before operating; only non-TCS shelf-s...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary, pest-free conditions	Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices.
POPULATION	1,245,310	354,414	209,631

## State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	No

### INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Registration includes sales direct from the production site including internet sales. However, a separate Retail Food Facility License may be required for sales at events or Farmers Markets. Businesses aiming to sell across state lines might also need FDA registration. The registration covers home-based operations in residential kitchens as well as residential-style kitchens in alternate locations such as churches, fire halls, or remodeled garages. Not available in Philadelphia County.

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

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=03&div=0&chpt=57>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

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

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/allegheny-county-discuss>

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[crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/allegheny-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/allegheny-county-discuss)

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