

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bucks County

Pennsylvania · Doylestown · FIPS 42017 · Population
645,163 · Crosodo Index #2464*

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: BUCKS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2464* · FIPS 42017 · Doylestown

Bucks County

Population 645,163 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration required with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Must submit application 60 days before opening. \$35 annual registration fee.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Pennsylvania LFE application packet explicitly states operators must contact local municipality (township office, borough office, town hall) to verify zoning approval before operating a food business at the property. Bucks County is governed by numerous townships and boroughs, each with their own zoning codes. Zoning approval must be obtained before submitting PDA application. Bucks County has a county health department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Routine inspection by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture required before registration issued and on ongoing basis annually)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration required with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Must submit application 60 days before opening. \$35 annual registration fee.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection
WATER SUPPLY	Private well water requires testing; municipal water acceptable
HANDWASHING	Required as part of routine home inspection compliance
FOOD STORAGE	Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions; no temperature-sensitive products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Routine inspection by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture required before registration issued and on ongoing basis annually
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Pennsylvania LFE application packet explicitly states operators must contact local municipality (township office, borough office, town hall) to verify zoning approval before operating a food business at the property. Bucks County is governed by numerous townships and boroughs, each with their own zoning codes. Zoning approval must be obtained before submitting PDA application. Bucks County has a county health department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from production site, online sales, farmers market sales, and retail store sales are all allowed. Interstate sales may require FDA registration. A Retail Food Facility License may be required for farmers market or event sales. No annual sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level; local zoning may restrict

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (PA Food Safety Act). Local: each township/borough in Bucks County has independent zoning ordinance.

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania uses the Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program under 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737. Bucks County has its own county health department and Retail Food Facility Program, which may impose additional requirements. Statewide: no sales cap, broad food types allowed (including acidified/fermented with lab testing), all sales venues permitted, inspection required before registration. Local zoning approval from municipality is prerequisite to PDA application. Bucks County has 54 municipalities, each with independent zoning. Confidence medium because specific township-level zoning codes for Bucks County were not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.buckscounty.gov/health>

<https://www.buckscounty.gov>

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

<https://www.buckscounty.gov/1158/Food-Program-FAQs>

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/pennsylvania/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bucks County	Montgomery County	Philadelphia County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	Yes
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection	Not specified in state regulations; standard sanitation applies	State baseline applies (but see notes — commercial kitchen required)
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	See notes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	See notes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from production site, online sales, farmers market sales, and retail store sales are all allowed. Interstate sales may require...	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Direct sales via home, markets, events, internet/online. Indirect retail sales permitted wit...	Standard commercial food establishment rules apply in Philadelphia. State LFE program excludes Philadelphia County.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	See notes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration requir...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. \$35 r...	Philadelphia County is explicitly excluded from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s Limited Food Establishment (cottage food) regi...
FOOD STORAGE	Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions; no temperature-sensitive products	Standard food storage per LFE requirements; temperature control foods for finished product not permitted	Commercial kitchen standards apply in Philadelphia County
POPULATION	645,163	856,399	1,593,208

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Bucks 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&t1=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 Bucks County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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