

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Carbon County

Pennsylvania · Jim Thorpe · FIPS 42025 · Population 65,018 ·
Crosodo Index #2398*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment)

STATE TIER

Good

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.

PENNSYLVANIA: CARBON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2398* · FIPS 42025 · Jim Thorpe

Carbon County

Population 65,018 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year term). Initial on-site inspection required. Must submit 60 days prior to operating. Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Good manufacturing practice applies; home kitchen inspection by PA Department of Agriculture

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Carbon County in eastern Pennsylvania (Pocono area). Local township or borough zoning may apply. Contact Carbon County Planning & Development at (570) 325-2521.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection before registration; routine inspections thereafter)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year term). Initial on-site inspection required. Must submit 60 days prior to operating. Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Good manufacturing practice applies; home kitchen inspection by PA Department of Agriculture
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well documentation may be required
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required; assessed during initial inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection before registration; routine inspections thereafter
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Carbon County in eastern Pennsylvania (Pocono area). Local township or borough zoning may apply. Contact Carbon County Planning & Development at (570) 325-2521.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed with limitations. No sales cap. Online and mail order permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Contact Carbon County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania requires initial inspection for Limited Food Establishment. Carbon County in eastern PA near Pocono Mountains. No specific county overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Carbon County	Schuylkill County	Monroe County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Good manufacturing practice applies; home kitchen inspection by PA Department of Agriculture	Not explicitly prohibited by state statute; kitchen must be sanitary during production.	Home kitchen inspected; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed with limitations. No sales cap. Online and mail order permitted.	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores permitted under the Limited Food Establishment reg...	Direct sales from production site and internet sales included in registration. Farmers market sales may require separate Retail Food Facili...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment registration required (\$35 fee, 2-year term). Initial on-site inspection required. Must submit 60 d...	Registration required with PA Department of Agriculture (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registrat...	Registration required with PA Department of Agriculture (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registrat...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage required	Non-TCS (non-refrigerated finished products) only. Stored in food-safe containers.	Non-refrigerated foods stored in sanitary conditions; assessed during inspection.
POPULATION	65,018	143,201	168,128

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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