

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Delaware County

Pennsylvania · Media · FIPS 42045 · Population 575,312 ·
Crosodo Index #2491*

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: DELAWARE COUNTY

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Delaware County

Population 575,312 · 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 (\$35/yr). Must submit application 60 days before opening. Must first obtain local municipality zoning approval.)

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 requires local municipality zoning approval before submitting state application. Delaware County is governed by 49 municipalities (townships, boroughs, cities), each with independent zoning codes. Delaware County has its own health department which may impose additional requirements. Must contact local township or borough for zoning approval.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

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 (\$35/yr). Must submit application 60 days before opening. Must first obtain local municipality zoning approval.
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

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Routine inspection by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture required before registration and on ongoing basis
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Pennsylvania LFE application packet explicitly requires local municipality zoning approval before submitting state application. Delaware County is governed by 49 municipalities (townships, boroughs, cities), each with independent zoning codes. Delaware County has its own health department which may impose additional requirements. Must contact local township or borough for zoning approval.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All venues permitted: direct from home, online, retail stores, restaurants, interstate. Retail Food Facility License may be required for farmers market and 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. Delaware County has its own health department. Each municipality has independent zoning code.

RESEARCH NOTES

Same Pennsylvania LFE state baseline as Bucks County. Delaware County is a dense suburban county near Philadelphia with its own county health department. Each of Delaware County’s 49 municipalities has its own zoning. Local zoning approval is prerequisite to PDA application. Delaware County health department may have additional requirements. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; Delaware County-specific municipal zoning not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.delcopa.gov>

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

<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/delaware-county-discuss>

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Delaware 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

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737

ANNUAL SALES CAP

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Yes

DIRECT SALES ONLY

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

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