

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lehigh County

Pennsylvania · Allentown · FIPS 42077 · Population 374,110 ·
Crosodo Index #2844*

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: LEHIGH COUNTY

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Lehigh County

Population 374,110 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initial on-site inspection is required. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with pH testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. Lehigh County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture statewide jurisdiction.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Lehigh County municipalities (Allentown, Bethlehem, Emmaus, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration; subsequent routine inspections by PA Dept. of Agriculture.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initial on-site inspection is required. Allowed non-TCS foods include baked goods, jams/jellies, beverages/drinks, acid/acidified/fermented foods (with pH testing), candy, and other shelf-stable foods. Application must be submitted at least 60 days before operation. NOT available in Philadelphia County. Lehigh County falls under PA Dept. of Agriculture statewide jurisdiction.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement beyond standard food code compliance.
HANDWASHING	Required per food establishment inspection standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration; subsequent routine inspections by PA Dept. of Agriculture.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Lehigh County municipalities (Allentown, Bethlehem, Emmaus, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify local zoning allows food production as a home occupation in their residential zone.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales and limited indirect sales permitted. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local zoning home occupation rules apply.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737 (Limited Food Establishment); local Lehigh County municipal zoning codes vary.

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania LFE program well-documented from state .gov source. Lehigh County includes Allentown and Bethlehem (Lehigh Valley). PA Dept. of Agriculture has statewide jurisdiction. Initial inspection required. Individual municipalities have their own zoning codes. Confidence medium: state rules high-confidence; county-specific zoning not researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lehighcounty.org>

<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/lehigh-county-discuss>

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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