

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Montgomery County

Pennsylvania · Norristown · FIPS 42091 · Population 856,399  
· Crosodo Index #1695\*

## 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: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1695\* · FIPS 42091 · Norristown

# Montgomery County

Population 856,399 · 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 (LFE) registration required. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. \$35 registration fee (2-year). Not available in Philadelphia County — Montgomery County is eligible. At least 60 days lead time before operating.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state regulations; standard sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Montgomery County zoning governs home occupations in unincorporated areas. Most of Montgomery County is incorporated (Norristown, King of Prussia area, etc.) with their own home occupation permit rules. Contact the relevant municipality’s planning department or Montgomery County Planning Commission for unincorporated areas.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. Subsequent routine inspections apply per state LFE regulations.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. \$35 registration fee (2-year). Not available in Philadelphia County — Montgomery County is eligible. At least 60 days lead time before operating.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state regulations; standard sanitation applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; private well may require additional documentation
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required as part of LFE compliance and kitchen inspection
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Standard food storage per LFE requirements; temperature control foods for finished product not permitted

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. Subsequent routine inspections apply per state LFE regulations.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Montgomery County zoning governs home occupations in unincorporated areas. Most of Montgomery County is incorporated (Norristown, King of Prussia area, etc.) with their own home occupation permit rules. Contact the relevant municipality’s planning department or Montgomery County Planning Commission for unincorporated areas.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Direct sales via home, markets, events, internet/online. Indirect retail sales permitted with LFE registration. Mail order possible for shelf-stable items. No wholesale-only without additional licensing.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

### Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Montgomery County zoning for home occupations

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Montgomery County follows Pennsylvania state baseline for Limited Food Establishment (cottage food). The LFE registration is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, not by the county. Initial home kitchen inspection is a distinctive Pennsylvania requirement. The \$35 fee covers 2 years. No Montgomery County-specific modification of state LFE requirements found. Philadelphia County exclusion does not apply here.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.montcopa.org/planning>

<https://www.montcopa.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/montgomery-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

## State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Montgomery 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.

---

<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
Yes	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
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 Montgomery County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

---