

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Philadelphia County

Pennsylvania · Philadelphia · FIPS 42101 · Population
1,593,208 · Crosodo Index #3047*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

See notes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

See notes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

State baseline applies (but see notes — commercial kitchen required)

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Pennsylvania cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Pennsylvania home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Pennsylvania label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

PENNSYLVANIA: PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3047* · FIPS 42101 · Philadelphia

Philadelphia County

Population 1,593,208 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **HIGH****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Conditional (Philadelphia County is explicitly excluded from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Limited Food Establishment (cottage food) registration program. The PA LFE application packet states: 'Any business selling food in Philadelphia County as a Limited Food Establishment requires NSF/ANSI equipment in a commercially zoned property.' This means cottage food operators in Philadelphia must operate from a commercially zoned property with commercial-grade equipment, effectively prohibiting home kitchen-based cottage food in the residential context.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

Yes

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies (but see notes — commercial kitchen required)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

See notes (Home kitchen operations are not permitted for Limited Food Establishments in Philadelphia. A commercially zoned property with NSF/ANSI equipment is required. Operators would need standard commercial food establishment permits from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

See notes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (PA Department of Agriculture inspects the production site on a routine basis as part of registration. Philadelphia also has its own city health inspections for food establishments.)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Conditional — Philadelphia County is explicitly excluded from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Limited Food Establishment (cottage food) registration program. The PA LFE application packet states: 'Any business selling food in Philadelphia County as a Limited Food Establishment requires NSF/ANSI equipment in a commercially zoned property.' This means cottage food operators in Philadelphia must operate from a commercially zoned property with commercial-grade equipment, effectively prohibiting home kitchen-based cottage food in the residential context.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

Yes

PET RESTRICTIONS

State baseline applies (but see notes — commercial kitchen required)

WATER SUPPLY

Commercial kitchen applies; state baseline for residential does not apply in Philadelphia

HANDWASHING

Commercial kitchen standards apply

FOOD STORAGE

Commercial kitchen standards apply in Philadelphia County

Inspection & permitting**INSPECTION REQUIRED**

Yes — PA Department of Agriculture inspects the production site on a routine basis as part of registration. Philadelphia also has its own city health inspections for food establishments.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

See notes — Home kitchen operations are not permitted for Limited Food Establishments in Philadelphia. A commercially zoned property with NSF/ANSI equipment is required. Operators would need standard commercial food establishment permits from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	See notes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	See notes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Standard commercial food establishment rules apply in Philadelphia. State LFE program excludes Philadelphia County.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	See notes — home kitchen operations not permitted in Philadelphia County

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (PA Food Safety Act, Limited Food Establishment); PA LFE Application Packet (Rev 3/2024) note: 'This registration is not permitted in Philadelphia County'

RESEARCH NOTES

Philadelphia County is one of the most restrictive jurisdictions in the batch — Pennsylvania's cottage food registration program explicitly excludes it. Home kitchen cottage food is effectively prohibited in Philadelphia; operators must use a commercially zoned property with NSF/ANSI equipment. Philadelphia has its own city health department (Philadelphia Department of Public Health) that regulates food establishments separately from state PDA. This is a significant local overlay that is more restrictive than the state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.phila.gov>

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/consumer_protection/FoodSafety/manufacturing-packing-holding-distribution/Documents/Limited%20Food%20Establishment%20Application%20Packet.pdf

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

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/philadelphia-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Philadelphia County	Montgomery County	Bucks County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	Yes	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies (but see notes — commercial kitchen required)	Not specified in state regulations; standard sanitation applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	See notes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	See notes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Standard commercial food establishment rules apply in Philadelphia. State LFE program excludes Philadelphia County.	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...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	See notes	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Philadelphia County is explicitly excluded from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Limited Food Establishment (cottage food) regi...	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...
FOOD STORAGE	Commercial kitchen standards apply in Philadelphia County	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
POPULATION	1,593,208	856,399	645,163

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Philadelphia 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania.

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 about Philadelphia County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/philadelphia-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/pennsylvania/philadelphia-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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