

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Washington County

Pennsylvania · Washington · FIPS 42125 · Population
209,631 · Crosodo Index #1823*

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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1823* · FIPS 42125 · Washington

Washington County

Population 209,631 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection before operating. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods are permitted. Application at least 60 days before operating. Program not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here). Washington County in southwestern PA (Pittsburgh metro area).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed during inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Washington County and municipalities (Washington City, Canonsburg, Bethel Park area, etc.) may require a home occupation permit for food business operations from a residence. Contact Washington County Planning Commission or relevant municipal zoning office. Zoning verification is part of the PA LFE application process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection before operating. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods are permitted. Application at least 60 days before operating. Program not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here). Washington County in southwestern PA (Pittsburgh metro area).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed during inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	Water supply adequacy may be assessed during initial on-site inspection.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial on-site inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Washington County and municipalities (Washington City, Canonsburg, Bethel Park area, etc.) may require a home occupation permit for food business operations from a residence. Contact Washington County Planning Commission or relevant municipal zoning office. Zoning verification is part of the PA LFE application process.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	PA LFE permits direct sales to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup, delivery, and farmers market sales permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in PA LFE statute. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Washington County zoning ordinances (contact Planning Commission)

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania state baseline applies. Washington County (county seat: Washington) is in southwestern Pennsylvania in the Pittsburgh metro area. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. PA Limited Food Establishment program is state-administered. Note: Washington County is not the same as Washington, PA; the county seat is the City of Washington, PA.

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/washington-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Washington County	Beaver County	Westmoreland County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed during inspe...	Home kitchen inspected; pets should be kept away from food prep areas.	Pets excluded from food production areas during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	PA LFE permits direct sales to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup, delivery, and farm...	Direct sales and internet sales from production site. Farmers market sales may require separate license.	Direct to consumer and limited indirect sales (farmer's markets, retail); no online-only sales without physical presence permitted under st...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection...	Registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Non-hazardous foods not requi...	Must register as Limited Food Establishment with PA Dept of Agriculture; kitchen inspection required before operating; only non-TCS shelf-s...
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices.	Non-refrigerated foods stored in sanitary conditions; assessed during inspection.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary, pest-free conditions
POPULATION	209,631	167,629	354,414

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

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