

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chippewa County

Wisconsin · Chippewa Falls · FIPS 55017 · Population 66,254
· Crosodo Index #1728*

STATE BASELINE

Wis. Stat. §97.29 (Kivirist court order 2017; Wisconsin Cottage Food Association v. DATCP 2024)

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Freedom	Tiered	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.

WISCONSIN: CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Home bakers of non-potentially hazardous baked goods may sell directly to consumers without a license under the Kivirist court order (2017). Non-baked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy) require a license per the 2024 Court of Appeals ruling. Home-canned pickles/acidified goods allowed up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers markets under §97.29(2)(b)2.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition; best practice is to exclude pets during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Chippewa County zoning requires a home occupation permit for operations conducted within a dwelling. Operations must be conducted entirely within the dwelling, not exceed 500 sq ft, and not employ non-residents without a conditional use permit under Zoning Ordinance §70-115. A business plan and permit from Chippewa County Planning & Zoning office (715-726-7940) is required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection for exempt home bakers; DATCP may investigate complaints)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Home bakers of non-potentially hazardous baked goods may sell directly to consumers without a license under the Kivirist court order (2017). Non-baked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy) require a license per the 2024 Court of Appeals ruling. Home-canned pickles/acidified goods allowed up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers markets under §97.29(2)(b)2.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition; best practice is to exclude pets during production
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage required; shelf-stable non-PHF foods only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection for exempt home bakers; DATCP may investigate complaints
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Chippewa County zoning requires a home occupation permit for operations conducted within a dwelling. Operations must be conducted entirely within the dwelling, not exceed 500 sq ft, and not employ non-residents without a conditional use permit under Zoning Ordinance §70-115. A business plan and permit from Chippewa County Planning & Zoning office (715-726-7940) is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only; no wholesale or internet sales for unlicensed operations. Home-canned goods limited to community events and farmers markets.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only resident employees without a conditional use permit; non-residents require conditional use permit under §70-108

Relevant county code

Chippewa County Zoning Ordinance §70-115 (Home Occupations); §70-108 (Conditional Use Permits)

RESEARCH NOTES

Wisconsin cottage food is shaped by *Kivirist v. DATCP* (2017) and *Wisconsin Cottage Food Association v. DATCP* (2024). Home bakers of non-PHF baked goods may sell without a license; non-baked non-PHF goods require a license. Chippewa County’s home occupation checklist confirms permit requirement, 500 sq ft limit, resident-only employees (unless conditional use), and a single sign up to 6 sq ft. County tier listed as ‘Freedom’ in WI context but Wisconsin is actually complex. Direct county-specific cottage food health department rules not found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chippewacountywi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/810/Home-Occupation-Checklist-PDF>

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Licenses_Permits/HomeBakers.aspx

<https://www.chippewacountywi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/810/Home-Occupation-Checklist-PDF>

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/issue_briefs/2025/consumer_protection/ib_wis_cottage_food_law_ag_2025_06_18

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/wisconsin/chippewa-county-discuss>

State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

Chippewa County’s rules sit on top of Wisconsin’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE Wis. Stat. §97.29	ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes

INDIRECT SALES
No — Home-canned goods must be sold at community or social events or farmers’ markets in Wisconsin (§97.29(2)(b)2.b). The Kivist court order applies to direct-to-consumer sales by home bakers. Products cannot be sold to retail food establishments or distributed through wholesale channels without a license.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Wisconsin cottage food law report**.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/97/29>

State dept cottage food page: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CottageFoodLaws.aspx

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/wisconsin/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Chippewa County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/wisconsin/chippewa-county-discuss>
