

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Manitowoc County

Wisconsin · Manitowoc · FIPS 55071 · Population 81,242 ·  
Crosodo Index #559\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Wis. Stat. §97.29	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: MANITOWOC COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #559\* · FIPS 55071 · Manitowoc

# Manitowoc County

Population 81,242 · State baseline: Wis. Stat. §97.29 · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Same as all Wisconsin counties: Kivirist court order allows home bakers selling non-PHF baked goods directly to consumers without a DATCP license. Baked goods only (exposed to dry heat at 140°F+). Unbaked non-PHF items not covered per 2024 Court of Appeals ruling. Pickle Bill allows home-canned pickles/acidified items up to \$5,000/year at community events/farmers markets.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Manitowoc County and the City of Manitowoc may have home occupation ordinances. No Manitowoc County-specific cottage food permit requirement identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (DATCP may investigate upon complaint.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Same as all Wisconsin counties: Kivirist court order allows home bakers selling non-PHF baked goods directly to consumers without a DATCP license. Baked goods only (exposed to dry heat at 140°F+). Unbaked non-PHF items not covered per 2024 Court of Appeals ruling. Pickle Bill allows home-canned pickles/acidified items up to \$5,000/year at community events/farmers markets.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific requirement beyond general sanitation.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Kitchen hygiene must not be in question.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	No specific statutory requirement beyond general sanitation.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — DATCP may investigate upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Manitowoc County and the City of Manitowoc may have home occupation ordinances. No Manitowoc County-specific cottage food permit requirement identified.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct-to-consumer sales only under Kivirist; no wholesale. Pickle Bill: community events and farmers markets only up to \$5,000/year.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Low volume condition of Kivirist exemption.

### Relevant county code

No Manitowoc County-specific cottage food code identified. Wis. Stat. §97.29 and Kivirist court order govern.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Manitowoc County follows Wisconsin cottage food framework. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Licenses\\_Permits/HomeBakers.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Licenses_Permits/HomeBakers.aspx)

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Manitowoc County	Sheboygan County	Calumet County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Kitchen hygiene must not be in question per Kivirist conditions.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	Not specified in state law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only under Kivirist; no wholesale. Pickle Bill: community events and farmers markets only up to \$5,000/year.	Wisconsin: direct sales only. Pickle Bill: community events and farmers markets only. Kivirist: direct consumer sales at low volume. No who...	Direct-to-consumer sales only for exempt operations. Pickle Bill limits sales to community events and farmers markets for home-canned goods...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Same as all Wisconsin counties: Kivirist court order allows home bakers selling non-PHF baked goods directly to consumers without a DATCP l...	Wisconsin: (1) Pickle Bill (\$97.29) allows home-canned acidified foods with pH ≤4.6 up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers market...	Under the Kivirist court order (2017), home bakers of good character may sell nonhazardous shelf-stable baked goods direct to consumer at l...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement beyond general sanitation.	Shelf-stable non-TCS baked goods and home-canned acidified foods (pH ≤4.6). Unbaked goods (chocolates, fudge, candy) require food processin...	Products must remain shelf-stable and nonhazardous.
POPULATION	81,242	117,741	52,361

## State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

Manitowoc 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.

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### 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.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Wisconsin cottage food law report](#).

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### 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](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CottageFoodLaws.aspx)

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

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## Questions?

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

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

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