

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sauk County

Wisconsin · Baraboo · FIPS 55111 · Population 65,664 ·
Crosodo Index #2395*

STATE BASELINE

Wis. Stat. §97.29 (Kivirist court order 2017; 2024 Court of Appeals ruling)

STATE TIER

Freedom

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

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.

WISCONSIN: SAUK COUNTY

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Sauk County

Population 65,664 · State baseline: Wis. Stat. §97.29 (Kivirist court order 2017; 2024 Court of Appeals ruling) · **MEDIUM**

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 (Kivirist exception). Non-baked non-PHF goods (chocolates, fudge, candy) require a license per 2024 ruling. Home-canned pickles/acidified goods allowed up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers markets.)
- SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?
No
- PETS ALLOWED?
No specific state prohibition; best practice is to exclude pets during production
- HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?
Varies (Sauk County has a Planning & Zoning department in Baraboo. Home occupation rules apply under county zoning ordinance. Contact Sauk County Planning & Zoning at (608) 355-3285 for permit requirements.)
- 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 (Kivirist exception). Non-baked non-PHF goods (chocolates, fudge, candy) require a license per 2024 ruling. Home-canned pickles/acidified goods allowed up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers markets.
- 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 baked goods only for unlicensed operation

Inspection & permitting

- INSPECTION REQUIRED
No — No routine inspection for exempt home bakers; DATCP may investigate complaints
- HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT
Varies — Sauk County has a Planning & Zoning department in Baraboo. Home occupation rules apply under county zoning ordinance. Contact Sauk County Planning & Zoning at (608) 355-3285 for permit requirements.
- LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE
Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only for unlicensed operations. Farmers markets and direct delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No non-resident employees for unlicensed home baker

Relevant county code

Sauk County Zoning Ordinance — contact Planning & Zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Sauk County (home of Baraboo, Wisconsin Dells area) follows same statewide Wisconsin framework as other WI counties. Kivirist exception applies to non-PHF baked goods sold direct to consumer. No Sauk County-specific cottage food restrictions identified. County is home to tourism industry; local zoning contact recommended.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.saukcounty.gov>

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

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/sauk-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sauk County	Columbia County	Dane County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition; best practice is to exclude pets during production	No specific pet restriction in Wisconsin cottage food case law or statute.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only for unlicensed operations. Farmers markets and direct delivery permitted.	Kivirist exception: baked goods direct to consumer at low volume. Pickle Bill: up to \$5,000/year at community events or farmers markets. No...	Direct sales within Wisconsin. Tiered sales cap: up to \$7,500 no reporting; up to \$21,000 direct/indirect with income reporting. No wholesa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Home bakers of non-potentially hazardous baked goods may sell directly to consumers without a license (Kivirist exception). Non-baked non-P...	Wisconsin has an unusual cottage food framework shaped by case law. The Kivirist court order (2017) allows home bakers to sell nonhazardous...	Wisconsin is a Freedom-tier state but with unusual structure. Home-canned pickles and acidified goods are explicitly exempt under §97.29. B...
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage required; shelf-stable non-PHF baked goods only for unlicensed operation	Shelf-stable, nonhazardous products required. No TCS foods.	Standard home kitchen storage for approved products
POPULATION	65,664	58,272	559,891

State context — Wisconsin cottage food law

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/wisconsin/sauk-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 Sauk County, Wisconsin. 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 free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/wisconsin/sauk-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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