

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Los Angeles County

California · Los Angeles · FIPS 06037 · Population 9,936,690
· Crosodo Index #657*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

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

Los Angeles County, California — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No pets allowed in food preparation area during production; consistent with state baseline GMPs.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under California 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
- ☐ California home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[California label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

CALIFORNIA: LOS ANGELES COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #657* · FIPS 06037 · Los Angeles

Los Angeles County

Population 9,936,690 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (LA County follows the state CFO Class A/B framework. Additionally, LA County opted into the MEHKO program in May 2024 (permits issued beginning November 1, 2024), allowing home cooks to operate small-scale restaurants serving up to 90 meals/week and 30 meals/day. The cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, and Vernon have their own separate environmental health departments and run their own programs.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No pets allowed in food preparation area during production; consistent with state baseline GMPs.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

No (California state law (Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. No separate home-occupation permit is required for cottage food operations. MEHKO operators must obtain a separate MEHKO permit from LA County EH (\$597 application review fee, subsidized for first 1,000 permittees through June 2026).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness; Class B CFOs require initial inspection before permit issuance. MEHKO permits require an initial inspection before operation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — LA County follows the state CFO Class A/B framework. Additionally, LA County opted into the MEHKO program in May 2024 (permits issued beginning November 1, 2024), allowing home cooks to operate small-scale restaurants serving up to 90 meals/ week and 30 meals/day. The cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, and Vernon have their own separate environmental health departments and run their own programs.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in food preparation area during production; consistent with state baseline GMPs.
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline applies
HANDWASHING	State baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness; Class B CFOs require initial inspection before permit issuance. MEHKO permits require an initial inspection before operation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No — California state law (Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. No separate home-occupation permit is required for cottage food operations. MEHKO operators must obtain a separate MEHKO permit from LA County EH (\$597 application review fee, subsidized for first 1,000 permittees through June 2026).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A direct sales only (in-person, online, shipping within CA). Class B adds indirect retail. MEHKO allows direct meal service at home. State preemption bars local restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-family employee (state baseline); MEHKO allows 1 full-time equivalent (40 hr/week) employee

Relevant county code

LA County Ordinance adopting MEHKO (Board of Supervisors resolution, May 2024); LA County Code Title 11 (Health & Safety) — specific section not publicly codified at time of research

RESEARCH NOTES

LA County is one of the largest MEHKO opt-in jurisdictions in California. MEHKO permitting began November 2024; initial application fee is \$597 (subsidized for first 1,000 applicants through June 2026). Standard cottage food (CFO Class A and B) registration handled by LA County Environmental Health. Cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, and Vernon have independent EH departments and administer their own programs separately.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://publichealth.lacounty.gov>

<https://planning.lacounty.gov>

<https://lacounty.gov>

<https://ph.lacounty.gov/mehko>

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/Eh/business/home-based-cottage-food.htm>

<https://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/inspection/mehko-inspection-guide.htm>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Los Angeles County	Orange County	San Bernardino County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets allowed in food preparation area during production; consistent with state baseline GMPs.	State baseline applies	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A direct sales only (in-person, online, shipping within CA). Class B adds indirect retail. MEHKO allows direct meal service at home. ...	Direct and indirect sales fulfilled in person, via mail, or third-party delivery within California only. Operator may hire up to 1 full-tim...	Direct/indirect sales within California only; state baseline applies. Up to 1 full-time equivalent employee (not family/household member) a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Varies by city	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	LA County follows the state CFO Class A/B framework. Additionally, LA County opted into the MEHKO program in May 2024 (permits issued begin...	Orange County Environmental Health administers CFO Class A (direct sales, no inspection) and Class B (indirect/retail, annual inspection) r...	San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services (EHS) administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. All CFOs must first ob...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Food may only be made and stored in the kitchen and an attached storage room used only for the home operation (state baseline).	State baseline applies
POPULATION	9,936,690	3,175,227	2,180,563

State context — California cottage food law

Los Angeles County's rules sit on top of California's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Class B permit holders may sell indirectly through retail stores and restaurants statewide; Class A registrants are limited to direct sales only and may not sell through any retail or wholesale venue.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **California cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/california.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

State dept cottage food page: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

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

Questions about Los Angeles 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/california/los-angeles-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 Los Angeles County, California. 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/california/los-angeles-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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