

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Orange County

California · Santa Ana · FIPS 06059 · Population 3,175,227 ·
Crosodo Index #1672*

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

Orange 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?

Varies by city

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Conditional

PETS

State baseline applies

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: ORANGE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1672* · FIPS 06059 · Santa Ana

Orange County

Population 3,175,227 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Orange County Environmental Health administers CFO Class A (direct sales, no inspection) and Class B (indirect/retail, annual inspection) registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Orange County as of research date — standard CFO program only. Application review fee applies (covers up to 10 product labels; additional labels at \$125/hr).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (State preemption (Gov. Code §51035) bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Orange County's permit/licensing page notes that business licenses must be handled through the city if operating within city boundaries. For unincorporated county areas, no separate home-occupation permit found for CFO.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: annual inspection required for permit. Both: upon-complaint investigation triggers additional fees.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Orange County Environmental Health administers CFO Class A (direct sales, no inspection) and Class B (indirect/retail, annual inspection) registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Orange County as of research date — standard CFO program only. Application review fee applies (covers up to 10 product labels; additional labels at \$125/hr).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

State baseline applies

WATER SUPPLY

State baseline applies

HANDWASHING

State baseline applies

FOOD STORAGE

Food may only be made and stored in the kitchen and an attached storage room used only for the home operation (state baseline).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Conditional — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: annual inspection required for permit. Both: upon-complaint investigation triggers additional fees.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies by city — State preemption (Gov. Code §51035) bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Orange County's permit/licensing page notes that business licenses must be handled through the city if operating within city boundaries. For unincorporated county areas, no separate home-occupation permit found for CFO.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales fulfilled in person, via mail, or third-party delivery within California only. Operator may hire up to 1 full-time employee. Advertisements must display county of approval, permit/registration number, and 'Made in a Home Kitchen' statement.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 full-time employee (state baseline)

Relevant county code

none county-specific found beyond state law

RESEARCH NOTES

Orange County Environmental Health has a dedicated CFO page with clear Class A/B registration procedures. Registration/permit is valid for one year and is non-transferable; must renew if relocating. No MEHKO opt-in was found for Orange County in research. Food processor training required within 90 days of registration approval.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ochealthinfo.com>

<https://www.ocgov.com>

<https://ochealthinfo.com/food/cottage>

<https://ochealthinfo.com/services-programs/environmental-health/food-safety-programs/cottage-food>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Orange County	San Diego County	Riverside County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales fulfilled in person, via mail, or third-party delivery within California only. Operator may hire up to 1 full-tim...	MEHKO permits on-site dining, pickup, and delivery by operator/staff. CFO allows in-home direct sales and online orders. State preemption b...	Direct/indirect sales within California only. State baseline applies. Operator may hire up to 1 full-time employee.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Orange County Environmental Health administers CFO Class A (direct sales, no inspection) and Class B (indirect/retail, annual inspection) r...	San Diego County opted into the permanent MEHKO program (effective January 5, 2024), administered by the Department of Environmental Health...	Riverside University Health System – Environmental Health administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confir...
FOOD STORAGE	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	State baseline applies
POPULATION	3,175,227	3,289,701	2,429,487

State context — California cottage food law

Orange 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 Orange 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/orange-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 Orange 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/orange-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise