

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

San Luis Obispo County

California · San Luis Obispo · FIPS 06079 · Population 281,712 · Crosodo Index #2523*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Class A (\$75,000 direct sales) and Class B (\$150,000 direct and indirect); annual registration/permit required; food handler card required

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	Tiered (see notes)	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.

How to start — 60-second path

San Luis Obispo 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?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Depends-on-volume

PETS

General sanitation required; kitchen must be clean and pest-free

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: SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (CDPH-approved food list only; annual Class A registration or Class B permit required from SLO County Environmental Health; food handler card required; Class B requires inspection; \$75,000/\$150,000 cap)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

General sanitation required; kitchen must be clean and pest-free

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (CA Homemade Food Act requires planning/zoning approval from SLO County Planning Department for all CFOs. Class A self-certification checklist and zoning approval required. Some jurisdictions may also require city business license)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Depends-on-volume (Class A: complaint-based only. Class B: initial and annual inspections)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — CDPH-approved food list only; annual Class A registration or Class B permit required from SLO County Environmental Health; food handler card required; Class B requires inspection; \$75,000/\$150,000 cap
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	General sanitation required; kitchen must be clean and pest-free
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required
FOOD STORAGE	CDPH-approved non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Depends-on-volume — Class A: complaint-based only. Class B: initial and annual inspections
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — CA Homemade Food Act requires planning/zoning approval from SLO County Planning Department for all CFOs. Class A self-certification checklist and zoning approval required. Some jurisdictions may also require city business license
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only. Class B: direct and indirect including retail. Max 1 non-family FTE employee
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 full-time equivalent (excluding family or household members)

Relevant county code

San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health CFO registration/permit process

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern-status county. Same CA CFO baseline as Merced County. SLO County is coastal Central California. County environmental health handles registration/permitting. No direct SLO County-specific page found in research.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	San Luis Obispo County	Monterey County	Santa Barbara County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	General sanitation required; kitchen must be clean and pest-free	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production per state law.	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Depends-on-volume	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales only. Class B: direct and indirect including retail. Max 1 non-family FTE employee	Class A: direct to consumer only; internet sales must be in-person pickup or delivery within county. Class B: retail/wholesale/mail order a...	Class A: direct-to-consumer only within California (in-person, online, delivery). Class B: direct and indirect sales to retailers/restauran...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	CDPH-approved food list only; annual Class A registration or Class B permit required from SLO County Environmental Health; food handler car...	California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales only) and Class B (direct and indirect sales i...	California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales, ~\$86,206 annual cap as of 2025) and Class B (...)
FOOD STORAGE	CDPH-approved non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only per state-approved CDPH list.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only per state-approved list.
POPULATION	281,712	437,609	445,213

State context — California cottage food law

San Luis Obispo 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

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

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.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

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 San Luis Obispo 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/san-luis-obispo-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 San Luis Obispo 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/san-luis-obispo-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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