

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sierra County

California · Downieville · FIPS 06091 · Population 3,113 ·
Crosodo Index #3124*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	Tiered (see notes)	MEDIUM	2026-05-06

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

True

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION

Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health

PETS

No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

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: SIERRA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3124* · FIPS 06091 · Downieville

Sierra County

Population 3,113 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

True (California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Sierra County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Extremely rural and sparsely populated northern Sierra Nevada county (population under 3,000). Contact Sierra County Environmental Health for registration.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health (Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN False

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab

HANDWASHING Required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance

FOOD STORAGE Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT True — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Sierra County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Extremely rural and sparsely populated northern Sierra Nevada county (population under 3,000). Contact Sierra County Environmental Health for registration.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE County has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Sierra County

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Sierra County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. One of California's least populous counties with no incorporated cities. CFO registration/permit obtained through Sierra County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/government/departments/environmental_health

<https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/government/departments/planning>

<https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov>

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

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/sierra-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sierra County	Lassen County	Plumas County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales	No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales	No commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law	Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law	Direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	True	True	True
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	County has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Sierra Coun...	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Susanville may require city business license	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Plumas County
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous	Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous	Standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous
POPULATION	2,916	31,873	19,650

State context — California cottage food law

Sierra 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 Sierra 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/sierra-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 Sierra 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/sierra-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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