

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cook County

Illinois · Chicago · FIPS 17031 · Population 5,225,367 ·
Crosodo Index #1324*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
410 ILCS 625/4	Great	—	HIGH	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

Cook County, Illinois — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

State baseline applies

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Illinois label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

ILLINOIS: COOK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1324* · FIPS 17031 · Chicago

Cook County

Population 5,225,367 · State baseline: 410 ILCS 625/4 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (In unincorporated Cook County, operators register with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Chicago residents must register with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and obtain a CDPH food service sanitation certificate in addition to the ANSI-accredited CFPM certification required statewide. Many incorporated cities within Cook County (Arlington Heights, Chicago, Evanston, Oak Lawn, Oak Park, Orland Park, Schaumburg, Skokie, Tinley Park, Des Plaines) have their own cottage food rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Unincorporated Cook County requires that home occupations be incidental to residential use. Home-rule cities within Cook County set their own rules; some require a home occupation permit. No specific Cook County cottage food home occupation permit requirement found for unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation; applicant must consent to inspection access upon registration.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — In unincorporated Cook County, operators register with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Chicago residents must register with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and obtain a CDPH food service sanitation certificate in addition to the ANSI-accredited CFPM certification required statewide. Many incorporated cities within Cook County (Arlington Heights, Chicago, Evanston, Oak Lawn, Oak Park, Orland Park, Schaumburg, Skokie, Tinley Park, Des Plaines) have their own cottage food rules.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

State baseline applies

WATER SUPPLY

State baseline applies

HANDWASHING

State baseline applies

FOOD STORAGE

State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation; applicant must consent to inspection access upon registration.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Unincorporated Cook County requires that home occupations be incidental to residential use. Home-rule cities within Cook County set their own rules; some require a home occupation permit. No specific Cook County cottage food home occupation permit requirement found for unincorporated areas.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows direct-to-consumer sales. CCDPH registration limits sales to direct consumer channels; retail walk-in customers to home are effectively prohibited by Cook County home occupation rules in unincorporated areas.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

Relevant county code

Cook County Code of Ordinances (home occupation provisions); CCDPH registration required under 410 ILCS 625/4

RESEARCH NOTES

Cook County has two distinct registration tracks: Chicago residents register with CDPH (additional sanitation certificate required); suburban Cook County residents register with CCDPH. Chicago's DCASE-sponsored farmers markets prohibit cottage food sales; independent Chicago farmers markets (CIFM) allow them. CCDPH application form requires Food Service Sanitation Manager Certificate (ANSI CFPM level). Some products not on standard list require lab testing to confirm non-PHF status. Note that state law was updated in 2022 (PA 102-0633) and 2025 (PA 103-0903) with broader allowed foods, but CCDPH application form from 2021/2022 vintage may not reflect all 2025 expansions.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://cookcountypublichealth.org>

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/planning-and-development>

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov>

<https://cookcountypublichealth.org/environmental-health/food-safety-resources/food-safety-forms/>

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

<http://www.extension.illinois.edu/cottage-food/chicago-cottage-food-operation-limitations>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cook County	DuPage County	Lake 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	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows direct-to-consumer sales. CCDPH registration limits sales to direct consumer channels; retail walk-in customers to home ar...	Direct-to-consumer sales statewide (not just farmers markets since 2022 amendment). Online sales allowed for non-perishable items within Il...	Direct-to-consumer statewide. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. No out-of-state shipping. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	In unincorporated Cook County, operators register with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Chicago residents must register...	Home kitchen allowed under state cottage food law. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager...	State baseline applies. Registration with Lake County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Standard food storage practices; perishable items may be sold directly but not shipped	Standard food storage; perishables may be sold directly but not shipped
POPULATION	5,225,367	930,559	713,159

State context — Illinois cottage food law

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

STATUTE

410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Illinois prohibits sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale; direct in-state sales are allowed anywhere including home, online, farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

State dept cottage food page: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

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

Questions about Cook 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/illinois/cook-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 Cook County, Illinois. 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/illinois/cook-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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