

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bucks County

Pennsylvania · Doylestown · FIPS 42017 · Population
645,163 · Crosodo Index #2464*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737	Good	—	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

Bucks County, Pennsylvania — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Pennsylvania label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

PENNSYLVANIA: BUCKS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2464* · FIPS 42017 · Doylestown

Bucks County

Population 645,163 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration required with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Must submit application 60 days before opening. \$35 annual registration fee.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Pennsylvania LFE application packet explicitly states operators must contact local municipality (township office, borough office, town hall) to verify zoning approval before operating a food business at the property. Bucks County is governed by numerous townships and boroughs, each with their own zoning codes. Zoning approval must be obtained before submitting PDA application. Bucks County has a county health department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Routine inspection by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture required before registration issued and on ongoing basis annually)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration required with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Must submit application 60 days before opening. \$35 annual registration fee.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection

WATER SUPPLY

Private well water requires testing; municipal water acceptable

HANDWASHING

Required as part of routine home inspection compliance

FOOD STORAGE

Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions; no temperature-sensitive products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Routine inspection by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture required before registration issued and on ongoing basis annually

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — Pennsylvania LFE application packet explicitly states operators must contact local municipality (township office, borough office, town hall) to verify zoning approval before operating a food business at the property. Bucks County is governed by numerous townships and boroughs, each with their own zoning codes. Zoning approval must be obtained before submitting PDA application. Bucks County has a county health department.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from production site, online sales, farmers market sales, and retail store sales are all allowed. Interstate sales may require FDA registration. A Retail Food Facility License may be required for farmers market or event sales. No annual sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level; local zoning may restrict

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (PA Food Safety Act). Local: each township/borough in Bucks County has independent zoning ordinance.

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania uses the Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program under 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737. Bucks County has its own county health department and Retail Food Facility Program, which may impose additional requirements. Statewide: no sales cap, broad food types allowed (including acidified/fermented with lab testing), all sales venues permitted, inspection required before registration. Local zoning approval from municipality is prerequisite to PDA application. Bucks County has 54 municipalities, each with independent zoning. Confidence medium because specific township-level zoning codes for Bucks County were not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.buckscounty.gov/health>

<https://www.buckscounty.gov>

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/food-safety/limited-food-establishment->

<https://www.buckscounty.gov/1158/Food-Program-FAQs>

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/pennsylvania/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bucks County	Montgomery County	Philadelphia County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	Yes
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply per inspection	Not specified in state regulations; standard sanitation applies	State baseline applies (but see notes — commercial kitchen required)
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	See notes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	See notes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from production site, online sales, farmers market sales, and retail store sales are all allowed. Interstate sales may require...	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Direct sales via home, markets, events, internet/online. Indirect retail sales permitted wit...	Standard commercial food establishment rules apply in Philadelphia. State LFE program excludes Philadelphia County.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	See notes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce only non-hazardous foods not requiring finished-product refrigeration. Kitchen must pass state inspection. Registration requir...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. \$35 r...	Philadelphia County is explicitly excluded from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Limited Food Establishment (cottage food) regi...
FOOD STORAGE	Food must be stored in compliant home kitchen conditions; no temperature-sensitive products	Standard food storage per LFE requirements; temperature control foods for finished product not permitted	Commercial kitchen standards apply in Philadelphia County
POPULATION	645,163	856,399	1,593,208

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

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

STATUTE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Yes

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Registration includes sales direct from the production site including internet sales. However, a separate Retail Food Facility License may be required for sales at events or Farmers Markets. Businesses aiming to sell across state lines might also need FDA registration. The registration covers home-based operations in residential kitchens as well as residential-style kitchens in alternate locations such as churches, fire halls, or remodeled garages. Not available in Philadelphia County.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=03&div=0&chpt=57>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

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

Questions about Bucks 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/pennsylvania/bucks-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 Bucks County, Pennsylvania. 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/pennsylvania/bucks-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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