

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Erie County

Pennsylvania · Erie · FIPS 42049 · Population 270,495 ·
Crosodo Index #1772*

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

Erie County, Pennsylvania — 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?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during 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: ERIE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1772* · FIPS 42049 · Erie

Erie County

Population 270,495 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35 for 2-year term); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (does not apply here). Each food category has specific requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Erie County municipalities may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Erie County itself has no county-wide zoning. Individual municipalities (City of Erie, townships) have their own zoning ordinances. Check with local municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued; subsequent routine inspections apply)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35 for 2-year term); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; submit application at least 60 days before operating. Not available in Philadelphia County (does not apply here). Each food category has specific requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during inspection
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state food safety standards
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; no refrigerated finished products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration is issued; subsequent routine inspections apply
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Erie County municipalities may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Erie County itself has no county-wide zoning. Individual municipalities (City of Erie, townships) have their own zoning ordinances. Check with local municipality.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and some indirect sales allowed; Limited Food Establishment registration allows sales at markets, home, online, and to some retailers. No sales in Philadelphia County under this program.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Erie County is listed as 'pattern' verification status with no county URLs provided. Pennsylvania's Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program under 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 is the operative framework. Erie County has no county-wide zoning (second-class county) so municipalities govern. The program requires initial inspection and \$35 registration fee. Confidence medium — state law confirmed from PA DOA but no specific Erie County .gov URL found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.eriecounty.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Erie County	Crawford County	Warren County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in statute; home kitchen must meet sanitation requirements during inspection	Kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.	Standard food safety GMP requirements apply during production.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and some indirect sales allowed; Limited Food Establishment registration allows sales at markets, home, online, and to some retailer...	Pennsylvania LFE allows direct and limited indirect sales within Pennsylvania framework.	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted; some limited indirect sales allowed. Online sales and in-state delivery permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods only; registration required (\$35 for 2-year term); initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration issued; su...	Same as all PA counties (except Philadelphia): Limited Food Establishment registration (\$35, 2-year), initial kitchen inspection required, ...	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration from PA Dept. of Agriculture (\$35 fee, 2-year registration). An initi...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable; no refrigerated finished products	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety.	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products only. No foods requiring temperature control.
POPULATION	270,495	83,876	39,191

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Erie 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 Erie 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/erie-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 Erie 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/erie-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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