

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Montgomery County

Pennsylvania · Norristown · FIPS 42091 · Population 856,399
· Crosodo Index #1695*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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

Montgomery 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 state regulations;
standard sanitation applies**

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: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1695* · FIPS 42091 · Norristown

Montgomery County

Population 856,399 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 (Limited Food Establishment) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. \$35 registration fee (2-year). Not available in Philadelphia County — Montgomery County is eligible. At least 60 days lead time before operating.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state regulations; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Montgomery County zoning governs home occupations in unincorporated areas. Most of Montgomery County is incorporated (Norristown, King of Prussia area, etc.) with their own home occupation permit rules. Contact the relevant municipality's planning department or Montgomery County Planning Commission for unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. Subsequent routine inspections apply per state LFE regulations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required. Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. \$35 registration fee (2-year). Not available in Philadelphia County — Montgomery County is eligible. At least 60 days lead time before operating.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state regulations; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well may require additional documentation
HANDWASHING	Required as part of LFE compliance and kitchen inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per LFE requirements; temperature control foods for finished product not permitted

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial on-site kitchen inspection required before registration. Subsequent routine inspections apply per state LFE regulations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Montgomery County zoning governs home occupations in unincorporated areas. Most of Montgomery County is incorporated (Norristown, King of Prussia area, etc.) with their own home occupation permit rules. Contact the relevant municipality's planning department or Montgomery County Planning Commission for unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Direct sales via home, markets, events, internet/online. Indirect retail sales permitted with LFE registration. Mail order possible for shelf-stable items. No wholesale-only without additional licensing.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Montgomery County zoning for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

Montgomery County follows Pennsylvania state baseline for Limited Food Establishment (cottage food). The LFE registration is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, not by the county. Initial home kitchen inspection is a distinctive Pennsylvania requirement. The \$35 fee covers 2 years. No Montgomery County-specific modification of state LFE requirements found. Philadelphia County exclusion does not apply here.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.montcopa.org/planning>

<https://www.montcopa.org>

<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/montgomery-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Montgomery 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	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 Montgomery 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/montgomery-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 Montgomery 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/montgomery-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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