

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Washington County

Pennsylvania · Washington · FIPS 42125 · Population
209,631 · Crosodo Index #1823*

STATE BASELINE

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737

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

Washington 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

PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed 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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1823* · FIPS 42125 · Washington

Washington County

Population 209,631 · State baseline: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection before operating. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods are permitted. Application at least 60 days before operating. Program not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here). Washington County in southwestern PA (Pittsburgh metro area).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed during inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Washington County and municipalities (Washington City, Canonsburg, Bethel Park area, etc.) may require a home occupation permit for food business operations from a residence. Contact Washington County Planning Commission or relevant municipal zoning office. Zoning verification is part of the PA LFE application process.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection before operating. Only non-TCS (non-refrigerated) foods are permitted. Application at least 60 days before operating. Program not available in Philadelphia County (not applicable here). Washington County in southwestern PA (Pittsburgh metro area).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed during inspection.

WATER SUPPLY

Water supply adequacy may be assessed during initial on-site inspection.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing facilities verified during initial on-site inspection.

FOOD STORAGE

Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial on-site inspection required before registration issued. Subsequent routine inspections apply under PA Department of Agriculture oversight.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Washington County and municipalities (Washington City, Canonsburg, Bethel Park area, etc.) may require a home occupation permit for food business operations from a residence. Contact Washington County Planning Commission or relevant municipal zoning office. Zoning verification is part of the PA LFE application process.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	PA LFE permits direct sales to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup, delivery, and farmers market sales permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in PA LFE statute. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737; Washington County zoning ordinances (contact Planning Commission)

RESEARCH NOTES

Pennsylvania state baseline applies. Washington County (county seat: Washington) is in southwestern Pennsylvania in the Pittsburgh metro area. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. PA Limited Food Establishment program is state-administered. Note: Washington County is not the same as Washington, PA; the county seat is the City of Washington, PA.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.washingtoncounty.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/washington-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Washington County	Beaver County	Westmoreland County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	PA Department of Agriculture inspectors verify GMP compliance; pet presence in food preparation areas is a GMP issue addressed during inspe...	Home kitchen inspected; pets should be kept away from food prep areas.	Pets excluded from food production areas during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	PA LFE permits direct sales to consumers and through limited indirect channels (depending on product type). Home pickup, delivery, and farm...	Direct sales and internet sales from production site. Farmers market sales may require separate license.	Direct to consumer and limited indirect sales (farmer's markets, retail); no online-only sales without physical presence permitted under st...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) program requires registration (\$35 for 2-year registration) and an initial on-site inspection...	Registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Non-hazardous foods not requi...	Must register as Limited Food Establishment with PA Dept of Agriculture; kitchen inspection required before operating; only non-TCS shelf-s...
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-refrigerated, non-TCS finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage practices.	Non-refrigerated foods stored in sanitary conditions; assessed during inspection.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary, pest-free conditions
POPULATION	209,631	167,629	354,414

State context — Pennsylvania cottage food law

Washington 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

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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 Washington 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/washington-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 Washington 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/washington-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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