

HOME COTTAGE-FOOD PERMITS

What permits do I need to open a micro bakery in California?

State exemption first, then county and independent-city overlays. Home kitchen path only — not a storefront or commissary.

STATE REGISTRATION

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

PLACES COVERED

58

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05**IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is a research checklist for the **home cottage-food** path. Local zoning still applies even when the state requires no food permit. Not legal advice.

State layer — what is not required

Registration: Yes. Routine inspection: No. Sales cap: Tiered (see notes).

Class B permit holders may sell indirectly through retail stores and restaurants statewide; Class A registrants are limited to direct sales only and may not sell through any retail or wholesale venue.

Statute: [Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758](#)

Pick a county or independent city for the local stack: crosodo.com/what-permits.

California counties and independent cities

Each place has its own zoning and license overlay. Independent cities are listed separately from the surrounding county.

Place	Home occupation	Business license	Pickup
Los Angeles County	No	Varies by city	Yes
Mendocino County	No	Varies	Yes
San Benito County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Nevada County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Tehama County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Imperial County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Shasta County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Yolo County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Marin County	Conditional	Yes	Yes
San Joaquin County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Sutter County	No	Varies	Yes
Santa Cruz County	Conditional	Yes	Yes
El Dorado County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Butte County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
San Mateo County	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
Yuba County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
San Bernardino County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alameda County	Yes	Varies by city	Yes
Ventura County	Yes	Varies	Yes
Kern County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sacramento County	Varies by city	Yes	Yes

Place	Home occupation	Business license	Pickup
Orange County	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
Sonoma County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tuolumne County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lake County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Santa Clara County	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
Stanislaus County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Humboldt County	Conditional	Yes	Yes
Riverside County	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
Tulare County	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Francisco County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fresno County	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
Napa County	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Diego County	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
Contra Costa County	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
Merced County	Yes	Varies	Yes
Kings County	Conditional	Yes	Yes
Madera County	Conditional	Yes	Yes
San Luis Obispo County	Yes	Varies	Yes
Monterey County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Santa Barbara County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Solano County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Placer County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Calaveras County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Calaveras County	True
Amador County	True	County unincorporated areas do not require a county business license; incorporated cities (Jackson, Sutter Creek, etc.) may require city business license	True
Inyo County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Inyo County	True
Trinity County	True	County has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Trinity County	True
Siskiyou County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Yreka and other incorporated cities may require city business license	True
Sierra County	True	County has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Sierra County	True

Place	Home occupation	Business license	Pickup
Plumas County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Plumas County	True
Mono County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; Town of Mammoth Lakes may require town business license for operations within town limits	True
Modoc County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Alturas may require city business license	True
Mariposa County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Mariposa County	True
Lassen County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Susanville may require city business license	True
Glenn County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Willows may require city business license	True
Del Norte County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Crescent City may require city business license	True
Colusa County	True	County unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Colusa may require city business license for city-based operations	True
Alpine County	True	Unlikely; Alpine County has no incorporated cities and minimal business licensing infrastructure; confirm with county	True