

HOME COTTAGE-FOOD PERMITS

What permits do I need to open a micro bakery in Los Angeles County?

California · Los Angeles County · FIPS 06037 · This is the home cottage-food path, not a storefront or commissary kitchen.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

No

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report is a research checklist for opening a **home cottage-food micro bakery**. It is **not** a retail-shop, café, or commissary-kitchen permit stack. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty**.

Always verify with your state agency and local planning, health, and license offices before you sell.

Checklist — what is and is not required

Los Angeles County, California — start here, then portals and fees.

STATE FOOD PERMIT / REGISTRATION

Yes

STATE ROUTINE INSPECTION

No

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

No

LOCAL HEALTH / PRODUCT REGISTRATION

Upon-complaint

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

HOUSE / PORCH PICKUP

Yes

PATH

Home cottage-food only. If you want a storefront or rented commercial kitchen, this checklist does not apply.

CONTINUE ONLINE

Live permit stack for this place →

Cottage food law page →

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change.

Portals, fees, and what is not required

What the state does not require

California registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: No. 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](#)

Zoning / home occupation

No — California state law (Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. No separate home-occupation permit is required for cottage food operations. MEHKO operators must obtain a separate MEHKO permit from LA County EH (\$597 application review fee, subsidized for first 1,000 permittees through June 2026).

Planning: <https://planning.lacounty.gov>

Health

Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness; Class B CFOs require initial inspection before permit issuance. MEHKO permits require an initial inspection before operation.

Health: <https://publichealth.lacounty.gov>

Business license

Varies by city

Pickup / delivery

Class A direct sales only (in-person, online, shipping within CA). Class B adds indirect retail. MEHKO allows direct meal service at home. State preemption bars local restrictions.

LOCAL NOTES

LA County is one of the largest MEHKO opt-in jurisdictions in California. MEHKO permitting began November 2024; initial application fee is \$597 (subsidized for first 1,000 applicants through June 2026). Standard cottage food (CFO Class A and B) registration handled by LA County Environmental Health. Cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, and Vernon have independent EH departments and administer their own programs separately.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://publichealth.lacounty.gov>

<https://planning.lacounty.gov>

<https://lacounty.gov>

<https://ph.lacounty.gov/mehko>

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/Eh/business/home-based-cottage-food.htm>

<https://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/inspection/mehko-inspection-guide.htm>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Los Angeles County	Orange County	San Bernardino County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets allowed in food preparation area during production; consistent with state baseline GMPs.	State baseline applies	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A direct sales only (in-person, online, shipping within CA). Class B adds indirect retail. MEHKO allows direct meal service at home. ...	Direct and indirect sales fulfilled in person, via mail, or third-party delivery within California only. Operator may hire up to 1 full-tim...	Direct/indirect sales within California only; state baseline applies. Up to 1 full-time equivalent employee (not family/household member) a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Varies by city	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	LA County follows the state CFO Class A/B framework. Additionally, LA County opted into the MEHKO program in May 2024 (permits issued begin...	Orange County Environmental Health administers CFO Class A (direct sales, no inspection) and Class B (indirect/retail, annual inspection) r...	San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services (EHS) administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. All CFOs must first ob...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Food may only be made and stored in the kitchen and an attached storage room used only for the home operation (state baseline).	State baseline applies
POPULATION	9,936,690	3,175,227	2,180,563

Same facts, different frame

The cottage-food-law report for this place uses the same county record. Open the law page for the statute essay: crosodo.com/states/california/los-angeles-county.