

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Merced County, California?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-05.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

SALES CAP

Tiered

CALIFORNIA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[California permits PDF](#)[California cottage food law page](#)[California Department of Public Health cottage food program](#)[Statute: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Merced County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Merced County, California. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Yes

LOCAL HEALTH

Depends-on-volume

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Yes

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

HOW THIS PLACE WORKS

California cottage food is registered at the county. CDPH does not issue cottage-food permits. Class A registration and Class B permits are handled by the county (or city) environmental health department where you live. If this file only has a county homepage, call Environmental Health and ask for the cottage-food (CFO) page. Class A is registration. Class B is a permit.

Official source: [CDPH Cottage Food Operations](#)

CONTINUE ONLINE

California permits PDF →

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/california.pdf>

California cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/california>

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/california/merced-county>

Merced County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/california/merced-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

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.

California permits PDF: [crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/california.pdf](https://www.crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/california.pdf)

State law page: [crosodo.com/states/california](https://www.crosodo.com/states/california)

California Department of Public Health: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

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

Zoning / home occupation

Yes. California Homemade Food Act (AB 1616) requires planning/zoning approval from local city or county planning department for all CFOs. Merced County planning department approval must be obtained; some municipalities may also require city business license

Health

Depends-on-volume. Class A: inspection upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness only. Class B: initial inspection before permit issuance and annual inspections, plus complaint-based

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Class A: direct sales only (at home, farmers markets, events). Class B: direct and indirect sales including retail stores and online. Max 1 non-family FTE employee

If you rent a commissary kitchen

CDPH does not permit commissaries. Counties do. California cottage food (Class A/B) is county environmental health. A commissary, restaurant, or shared kitchen is a retail food facility under CalCode, also at county environmental health, on a different application than the CFO form.

Official source: [CDPH food safety program](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.countyofmerced.com>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

SOURCES

<https://www.countyofmerced.com>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/DocumentCenter/View/31479/Cottage-Food-Application>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/1636/Applications-Forms-Permits>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/DocumentCenter/View/5348/Cottage-Food-Law-FAQs-2012>

Merced County and nearby places

Regulation	Merced County	Madera County	San Benito County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in available sources; general sanitation and clean kitchen required	No specific state restriction on pets, but pets must not be in food preparation areas per GMP.	Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and GMP
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Depends-on-volume	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales only (at home, farmers markets, events). Class B: direct and indirect sales including retail stores and online. Max 1...	Class A: direct sales only, online and shipping within California. Class B: direct sales plus retail stores and restaurants. Both classes: ...	Class A: direct sales including online and shipping within California. Class B: plus retail stores and restaurants within California. No in...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	CDPH-approved food list only; annual Class A registration or Class B permit required from Merced County Environmental Health; food handler ...	California two-class system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206 cap, 2025 CPI-adjusted) requires county registration and food safety trai...	Class A (direct sales only): up to ~\$86,206/year; Class B (direct and indirect): up to ~\$172,411/year with home inspection required. Food s...
FOOD STORAGE	CDPH-approved non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Only state-approved non-PHF foods. Products must be in compliant packaging.	Non-PHF shelf-stable approved foods only
POPULATION	282,290	157,243	64,753

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

California permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/california.pdf

California cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/california

Merced County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/california/merced-county