

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in San Diego County, California?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies by city

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

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 San Diego County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

San Diego 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

Varies by city

LOCAL HEALTH

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

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/san-diego-county>

San Diego County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/california/san-diego-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

State law page: 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

Varies by city. DEHQ refers operators to city-specific permit/license requirements. For unincorporated county areas, state preemption (Gov. Code §51035) prohibits zoning restrictions on CFOs. MEHKO operators must verify HOA approval before applying.

Planning: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds.html>

Health

Yes. MEHKO: initial inspection required before permit issuance; annual inspections thereafter; additional fees for justified complaint response and re-inspections. CFO Class B: pre-inspection required before permit. CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon-complaint only.

Health: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa.html>

Business license

Varies by city

Pickup / delivery

MEHKO permits on-site dining, pickup, and delivery by operator/staff. CFO allows in-home direct sales and online orders. State preemption bars local sales restrictions.

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.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/food.html>

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.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/food/cottagefood.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/food/homekitchenoperations.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/deh/fhd/food/mehko/mehkofaqs.pdf>

San Diego County and nearby places

Regulation	San Diego County	Orange County	Riverside County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	MEHKO permits on-site dining, pickup, and delivery by operator/staff. CFO allows in-home direct sales and online orders. State preemption b...	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. Operator may hire up to 1 full-time employee.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	San Diego County opted into the permanent MEHKO program (effective January 5, 2024), administered by the Department of Environmental Health...	Orange County Environmental Health administers CFO Class A (direct sales, no inspection) and Class B (indirect/retail, annual inspection) r...	Riverside University Health System – Environmental Health administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confir...
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	3,289,701	3,175,227	2,429,487

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

San Diego County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/california/san-diego-county