

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Santa Clara 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 Santa Clara County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Santa Clara 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

Conditional

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/santa-clara-county>

Santa Clara County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/california/santa-clara-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

Varies by city. Santa Clara County DEH requires CFO operators to obtain local city zoning approval before operating, though proof need not be submitted to DEH. The specific permit type and cost depends on the city (San Jose, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, etc.). For unincorporated Santa Clara County, contact county planning.

Health

Conditional. CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon complaint only. CFO Class B: one routine annual inspection. MEHKO: initial onsite kitchen evaluation required before permit issuance; routine inspection scheduled after permit approval.

Business license

Varies by city

Pickup / delivery

Direct/indirect sales within California only (state baseline). MEHKO permits on-site dining, pickup, and delivery. MEHKO: food must be prepared, cooked, and served same day. MEHKO may not operate at farmers markets or temporary events.

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.sccgov.org>

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.sccgov.org>

<https://cpd.sccgov.org/microenterprise-home-kitchen-operations-mehko>

<https://deh.santaclaracounty.gov/food-and-retail/compliance-retail-food-operations/apply-cottage-food-operations-permit>

<https://cpd.sccgov.org/cottage-food-operations-cfo>

Santa Clara County and nearby places

Regulation	Santa Clara County	Alameda County	San Mateo County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	No animals inside kitchen/ dining areas during MEHKO operations (MEHKO SOP requirement). State baseline applies for CFOs.	Standard sanitation; MEHKO requires food safety compliance
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct/indirect sales within California only (state baseline). MEHKO permits on-site dining, pickup, and delivery. MEHKO: food must be prep...	CFO: direct/indirect sales within California only. MEHKO: on-site dining, pickup, delivery by operator/staff. MEHKO food must be prepared a...	CFO Class A: direct sales only (\$75,000 cap). CFO Class B: direct + indirect (\$150,000 cap). MEHKO: direct-to-consumer only (dine-in, take-...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) administers both CFO Class A/B registrations/ permits and the MEHKO program, whi...	Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (ACDEH) administers both CFO Class A/B registrations/permits and the MEHKO program. CFO a...	Two pathways: (1) CFO Class A/B under §113758; (2) MEHKO under §113825 — San Mateo County has permanently authorized MEHKOs (ordinance appr...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	Standard per state approved foods list (CFO) or California Retail Food Code (MEHKO)
POPULATION	1,916,831	1,663,823	754,250

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

Santa Clara County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/california/santa-clara-county