

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Santa Cruz County, California?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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

What you need

Santa Cruz 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

Conditional

LOCAL HEALTH

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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-cruz-county>

Santa Cruz County cottage food law page →

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

Conditional. California state law (Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning from restricting CFOs. Santa Cruz County may require a local business license for unincorporated areas. Must obtain local business license from Santa Cruz County or respective city.

Health

Conditional. Class B: inspection required before permit issued; Class A: no routine inspection (self-certification checklist); either class subject to inspection upon complaint

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

Class A: direct sales only (including online with local delivery/pickup or shipping within CA). Class B: direct + indirect sales (wholesale to retailers within county, with some reciprocal agreements). No interstate sales.

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.santacruzcountyca.gov>

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.santacruzcountyca.gov>

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

<https://ucanr.edu/site/cottage-foods/two-tiered-permit-registration-system>

Santa Cruz County and nearby places

Regulation	Santa Cruz County	Monterey County	San Benito County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified by county; state law requires sanitary food preparation area	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production per state law.	Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and GMP
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales only (including online with local delivery/pickup or shipping within CA). Class B: direct + indirect sales (wholesale...	Class A: direct to consumer only; internet sales must be in-person pickup or delivery within county. Class B: retail/wholesale/mail order a...	Class A: direct sales including online and shipping within California. Class B: plus retail stores and restaurants within California. No in...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Class A (direct sales, cap ~\$86,206/year) or Class B (direct+indirect, cap ~\$172,411/year). Must register with Santa Cruz County Environmen...	California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales only) and Class B (direct and indirect sales i...	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	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods on CDPH approved list only; no refrigerated products	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only per state-approved CDPH list.	Non-PHF shelf-stable approved foods only
POPULATION	268,571	437,609	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

Santa Cruz County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/california/santa-cruz-county