

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Cook County, Illinois?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

SALES CAP

—

ILLINOIS RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Illinois permits PDF](#)[Illinois cottage food law page](#)[Illinois Department of Public Health cottage food program](#)[Statute: 410 ILCS 625/4 \(Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4\)](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Cook County, Illinois. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Conditional

LOCAL HEALTH

Upon-complaint

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Conditional

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

Illinois permits PDF →

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

Illinois cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/illinois/cook-county>

Cook County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/illinois/cook-county>

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

Where to file

State

Illinois registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: Upon-complaint. Illinois prohibits sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale; direct in-state sales are allowed anywhere including home, online, farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.

Illinois permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/illinois.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/illinois

Illinois Department of Public Health: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

Statute: [410 ILCS 625/4 \(Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4\)](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Conditional. Unincorporated Cook County requires that home occupations be incidental to residential use. Home-rule cities within Cook County set their own rules; some require a home occupation permit. No specific Cook County cottage food home occupation permit requirement found for unincorporated areas.

Planning: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/planning-and-development>

Health

Upon-complaint. Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation; applicant must consent to inspection access upon registration.

Health: <https://cookcountypublichealth.org>

Business license

Varies by city

Pickup / delivery

State law allows direct-to-consumer sales. CCDPH registration limits sales to direct consumer channels; retail walk-in customers to home are effectively prohibited by Cook County home occupation rules in unincorporated areas.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

Local health departments license food facilities. Illinois cottage food registers with the local health department. A commissary or restaurant is a retail food establishment, also at that department, on a different permit.

Official source: [IDPH food safety](#)

Local health office we have on file: https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/bacp/supp_info/sharedkitchen.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://cookcountypublichealth.org>

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/planning-and-development>

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov>

<https://cookcountypublichealth.org/environmental-health/food-safety-resources/food-safety-forms/>

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

<http://www.extension.illinois.edu/cottage-food/chicago-cottage-food-operation-limitations>

Cook County and nearby places

Regulation	Cook County	DuPage County	Kane County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction in 410 ILCS 625/4; general sanitation standards
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows direct-to-consumer sales. CCDPH registration limits sales to direct consumer channels; retail walk-in customers to home ar...	Direct-to-consumer sales statewide (not just farmers markets since 2022 amendment). Online sales allowed for non-perishable items within Il...	Direct sales to consumers only within Illinois. Farmers markets, events, home/online sales. No retail stores, restaurants, or third-party d...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	In unincorporated Cook County, operators register with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Chicago residents must register...	Home kitchen allowed under state cottage food law. Registration required with local health department (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager...	Must use primary residence kitchen on farm property or in home. Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certification required for all per...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Standard food storage practices; perishable items may be sold directly but not shipped	Standard home kitchen storage; products must be stored in primary residence
POPULATION	5,225,367	930,559	517,254

More pages for this place

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

Illinois permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/illinois.pdf

Illinois cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/illinois

Cook County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/illinois/cook-county