

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Lake 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

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

What you need

Lake 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

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Yes

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/lake-county>

Lake County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/illinois/lake-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. Lake County is largely incorporated (Waukegan, North Chicago, Gurnee, Libertyville, Vernon Hills, etc.) with separate municipal home occupation permit rules. Contact relevant municipality's planning department. Lake County Planning, Building & Development governs unincorporated areas.

Planning: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/planning>

Health

Upon-complaint. Lake County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.

Health: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/health>

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct-to-consumer statewide. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. No out-of-state shipping. No wholesale.

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.lakecountyil.gov/2313/Food-Safety>

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.lakecountyil.gov/health>

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/planning>

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov>

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

Lake County and nearby places

Regulation	Lake County	McHenry County	Cook County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer statewide. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. No out-of-state shipping. No wholesale.	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, home sales, online with direct delivery permitted; no retail/wholesale	State law allows direct-to-consumer sales. CCDPH registration limits sales to direct consumer channels; retail walk-in customers to home ar...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies. Registration with Lake County Health Department required (up to \$50/year). Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-...	Non-TCS foods (prohibited list approach); ANAB-accredited food handler cert required; direct to consumer only; no retail sales to restauran...	In unincorporated Cook County, operators register with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Chicago residents must register...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; perishables may be sold directly but not shipped	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	State baseline applies
POPULATION	713,159	311,133	5,225,367

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

Lake County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/illinois/lake-county