

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-06.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies

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

What you need

Lee 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

Varies

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/lee-county>

Lee County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/illinois/lee-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

Varies. Lee County local zoning ordinances may regulate home-based business activities (parking, signage, customer traffic). Illinois state cottage food law preempts local restrictions that are inconsistent with state law, but operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with the county zoning/planning office or municipality of residence.

Health

Upon-complaint. Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct sales to consumers only (in person, at farmers markets, online orders). In-state shipping of non-perishable items permitted within Illinois. Out-of-state shipping prohibited. No third-party resale or distribution.

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.leecounty.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.leecounty.gov>

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

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

Lee County and nearby places

Regulation	Lee County	Bureau County	Ogle County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies	Not specified in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only (in person, at farmers markets, online orders). In-state shipping of non-perishable items permitted within I...	Direct sales to consumers only (in person, at farmers markets, online orders). In-state shipping of non-perishable items permitted within I...	Direct-to-consumer sales from home, online, events, and farmers markets within Illinois. Non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinoi...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must register with local health department (Lee County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Certif...	Must register with local health department (Bureau County Health Department or adjacent county health dept if none) for up to \$50/year. Cer...	Products must be direct-to-consumer sales within Illinois. Prohibited list approach — most non-TCS foods allowed. Food Safety Manager (CFPM...
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage of shelf-stable and non-TCS foods; acidified foods require pH documentation and food safety plan; fermented foods have addit...	Proper storage of shelf-stable and non-TCS foods; acidified foods require pH documentation and food safety plan; fermented foods have addit...	Products must be non-TCS for direct sales; products may not be shipped if perishable.
POPULATION	34,221	33,203	51,672

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

Lee County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/illinois/lee-county