

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

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

What you need

McHenry 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/mchenry-county>

McHenry County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/illinois/mchenry-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. IL does not preempt local zoning. McHenry County municipalities (Woodstock, Crystal Lake, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local city/village planning

Health

Upon-complaint. IL Dept of Public Health may investigate complaints

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, home sales, online with direct delivery permitted; no retail/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.mchenrycountyil.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.mchenrycountyil.gov>

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

McHenry County and nearby places

Regulation	McHenry County	Kane County	DeKalb County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction in 410 ILCS 625/4; general sanitation standards	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food kitchens, but standard sanitation applies.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, home sales, online with direct delivery permitted; no retail/wholesale	Direct sales to consumers only within Illinois. Farmers markets, events, home/online sales. No retail stores, restaurants, or third-party d...	Direct in-state sales. Online sales for non-perishables within Illinois only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods (prohibited list approach); ANAB-accredited food handler cert required; direct to consumer only; no retail sales to restauran...	Must use primary residence kitchen on farm property or in home. Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certification required for all per...	Illinois 'prohibited list' approach: operators can sell nearly everything not explicitly prohibited. Registration with local health departm...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Standard home kitchen storage; products must be stored in primary residence	Non-prohibited foods only. Meat/poultry/fish/seafood, custard/cream pies with hazardous fillings, garlic in oil (unless acidified), low-aci...
POPULATION	311,133	517,254	100,686

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

McHenry County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/illinois/mchenry-county