

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Black Hawk County, Iowa?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

SALES CAP

—

IOWA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Iowa permits PDF](#)[Iowa cottage food law page](#)[Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals cottage food program](#)[Statute: Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Black Hawk County, Iowa. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Varies

LOCAL HEALTH

No

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

Iowa permits PDF →

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

Iowa cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/iowa/black-hawk-county>

Black Hawk County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/iowa/black-hawk-county>

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

Where to file

State

Iowa registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: No. Cottage food direct-to-consumer sales only; however, a separate Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license allows indirect retail and wholesale sales of almost any food including perishables.

Iowa permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/iowa.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/iowa

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals: <https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

Statute: [Iowa Code §137F.1 / §137F.20](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Varies. Black Hawk County zoning applies in unincorporated areas. City of Waterloo and Cedar Falls have separate home occupation rules. State law explicitly prohibits local governments from adding restrictions to cottage food exemption (§137F.20(1)).

Health

No. Iowa DIAL may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspection for cottage food exemption.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Cottage food exemption: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, roadside stands, delivery). HFPE pathway: also indirect retail sales.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

DIA licenses food establishments. Iowa cottage food is an exemption. A commissary or food establishment is licensed by the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (or the local board of health where they inspect).

Official source: [Iowa DIAL food establishments](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.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.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>

<https://dia.iowa.gov/food-safety/home-food-establishment>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/137F.pdf>

<https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov>

Black Hawk County and nearby places

Regulation	Black Hawk County	Benton County	Bremer County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not explicitly prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.	No state or county-specific rule found; good practice is to exclude pets from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Cottage food exemption: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, roadside stands, delivery). HFPE pathway: also indirect retail sales.	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roa...	Direct-to-consumer sales only under the cottage food exemption. Customers may pick up at home, or operator may sell at farmers markets, roa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	Iowa has two pathways: (1) Cottage food exemption (§137F.20): no license, no cap, direct sales only, non-TCS foods including pH-tested acid...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...	No license, registration, or inspection required under Iowa cottage food exemption (Iowa Code §137F.20). Allowed non-TCS foods include bake...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods for cottage food exemption. Acidified foods (pH ≤4.6 or water activity ≤0.85) allowed if pH/water activity tested and product...	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.	Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.
POPULATION	131,041	25,645	24,798

More pages for this place

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

Iowa permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/iowa.pdf

Iowa cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/iowa

Black Hawk County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/iowa/black-hawk-county