

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Johnson County, Iowa?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

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

What you need

Johnson 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

Conditional

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/johnson-county>

Johnson County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/iowa/johnson-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

Conditional. State law prohibits local governments from adding restrictions on cottage food operations under §137F.20(1). However, Johnson County/Iowa City may have general home occupation requirements for business licensing purposes. Local zoning rules may still apply for non-food-specific aspects.

Health

No. Iowa DIAL may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspection for exempt operations.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct-to-consumer sales only under exemption. From home, at farmers markets, events, roadside stands. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail sales. No out-of-state sales under either pathway.

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.johnsoncountyiowa.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.johnsoncountyiowa.gov>

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

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

Johnson County and nearby places

Regulation	Johnson County	Linn County	Muscatine County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food exemption.	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary	No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only under exemption. From home, at farmers markets, events, roadside stands. HFPE pathway allows indirect retail ...	Direct sales only to end consumers: home, farmers markets, events, online with local delivery. No wholesale. Separate HFPE registration pat...	Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to c...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	No	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	No	No
RESTRICTIONS	Iowa has two pathways: (1) cottage food exemption under §137F.20 — no license, no cap, direct sales only, most non-TCS foods including pH-t...	No license required under cottage food exemption (§137F.20). No sales cap. Non-TCS foods including pH-tested acidified foods allowed. Direc...	Iowa cottage food law (§137F.20, amended 2022 by HF 2431) allows sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods directly to consumers from a private re...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only under exemption. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch pH-tested (≤ 4.6) or water activity tested ($a_w \leq \dots$)	Non-TCS foods including acidified foods if pH tested ($\text{pH} \leq 4.6$) or water activity tested ($a_w \leq 0.85$) with production date on label	Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-te...
POPULATION	153,360	229,308	42,968

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

Johnson County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/iowa/johnson-county