

## COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

# Can I sell from my kitchen in Madison County, Iowa?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

**No**

HOME OCCUPATION

**No**

BUSINESS LICENSE

**No**

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

## What you need

Madison 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

No

LOCAL HEALTH

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

No

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/madison-county>

[Madison County cottage food law page →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/states/iowa/madison-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](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/iowa.pdf)

State law page: [crosodo.com/states/iowa](https://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

No. Iowa §137F.20 expressly preempts local government from adding restrictions on cottage food operations. No county-level home occupation permit required for cottage food in Madison County.

### Health

No. No routine inspection for cottage food operations. Home Food Processing Establishment (HFPE) license pathway requires initial inspection.

### Business license

No

### Pickup / delivery

Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to consumer). HFPE license allows additional retail/indirect sales up to \$50,000/year.

### 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.madisoncounty.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.madisoncounty.gov>

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-establishments-hotels/cottage-food-law>

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

---

## Madison County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Madison County                                                                                                                                 | Union County                                                                                                                                   | Guthrie County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.                                                                                          | No specific pet restriction in Iowa cottage food law.                                                                                          | 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            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to c... | Direct sales only under cottage food exemption. Allowed venues: home, farmers markets, roadside stands, special events, online (direct to c... | 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     | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| RESTRICTIONS               | 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... | 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... | 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 (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-te... | Non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) shelf-stable foods only. Acidified foods (pickles, salsas) allowed if each batch is pH-te... | Cottage food products must be stored to prevent contamination; TCS foods not permitted under the cottage food exemption.                       |
| POPULATION                 | 16,609                                                                                                                                         | 12,107                                                                                                                                         | 10,689                                                                                                                                         |

## 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](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/iowa.pdf)

Iowa cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/iowa](https://crosodo.com/states/iowa)

Madison County cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/iowa/madison-county](https://crosodo.com/states/iowa/madison-county)