

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Mercer County, Kentucky?

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

\$60,000 / year

KENTUCKY RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Kentucky permits PDF](#)[Kentucky cottage food law page](#)[Kentucky Department for Public Health cottage food program](#)[Statute: KRS §217.137](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Mercer County, Kentucky. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

ANNUAL SALES CAP

\$60,000 / year

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

Kentucky permits PDF →

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

Kentucky cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/kentucky/mercercounty>

Mercer County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/kentucky/mercercounty>

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

Where to file

State

Kentucky registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: Upon-complaint. Sales limited to direct-to-consumer only within Kentucky — from home (pickup or delivery), markets, roadside stands, community events, and online; shipping outside Kentucky is prohibited, and sales to restaurants or retail stores for resale are not allowed.

Kentucky permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/kentucky.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/kentucky

Kentucky Department for Public Health: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

Statute: [KRS §217.137](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Varies. No county-specific home occupation ordinance identified for Mercer County. State law requires annual \$50 registration with CHFS Food Safety Branch (form DFS-250) before selling. Operators should contact the Mercer County planning/zoning office and county judge-executive to confirm whether a local home occupation permit or business license is also required.

Health

No. Cabinet for Health and Family Services may inspect annually at discretion, or upon complaint/mislabeling report. No routine pre-approval inspection required.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct-to-consumer only. Permitted venues: home (on-premises pickup), farmers markets, certified roadside stands, community events, fairs, festivals, and personal delivery within Kentucky. Online orders allowed if fulfilled by in-state pickup or personal delivery. No wholesale to restaurants or retail stores. No mail/common-carrier shipping.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

Local health departments permit food service. Kentucky cottage food / home-based processor paths do not replace a food-service permit. A commissary is permitted by the local health department.

Official source: [KY food safety](#)

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

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=48558>

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

Mercer County and nearby places

Regulation	Mercer County	Anderson County	Woodford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets and children must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per KRS §217.136 and associated regulations.	No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected.	Not specified in state law
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. Permitted venues: home (on-premises pickup), farmers markets, certified roadside stands, community events, fairs, ...	Direct sales only. Sales at farmers markets, farm stands, events, and home pickup permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or internet-based...	Direct-to-consumer only within KY; farmers markets, roadside stands, fairs, festivals, community events, online orders (in-state); home pic...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	No	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Kentucky Home-Based Processor (HBP) law (KRS §217.136) allows production and direct sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a primary resid...	Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CH...	Annual sales cap \$60,000. Registration required with KY Dept of Public Health (\$50/year). No food handler cert required. Inspection upon co...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-potentially hazardous), shelf-stable foods only. No commercial refrigerators permitted beyond household limits (up to three st...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No more than three refrigerators for storage.	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products
POPULATION	22,662	22,214	26,886

More pages for this place

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

Kentucky permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/kentucky.pdf

Kentucky cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/kentucky

Mercer County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/kentucky/mercer-county