

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in St. Louis County, Missouri?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT	HOME OCCUPATION	BUSINESS LICENSE	SALES CAP
No	Yes	Varies	—

MISSOURI RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Missouri permits PDF](#)

[Missouri cottage food law page](#)

[Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services cottage food program](#)

[Statute: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298](#)

NOT LEGAL ADVICE

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

What you need

St. Louis County, Missouri. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Yes

LOCAL HEALTH

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Conditional

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

CONTINUE ONLINE

Missouri permits PDF →

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

Missouri cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/missouri/st-louis-county>

St. Louis County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/missouri/st-louis-county>

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

Where to file

State

Missouri registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: No. Under §196.298, sales must be directly to consumers from the producer's home. Events, farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, and roadside stands are not permitted under this law. Internet/online sales are allowed but only if both the producer and buyer are located in Missouri. Local health departments are explicitly prohibited from regulating the production of food at cottage food operations. A separate Missouri statute (individual stands law) allows sales at events and roadside stands in counties that have adopted it, permitting most other nonperishable foods.

Missouri permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/missouri.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/missouri

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

Statute: [Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Yes. In unincorporated St. Louis County, any business activity from a residence requires compliance with the Zoning Code definition of Home Occupation. The definition requires the activity be carried on solely by resident family members, with no services to the general public on premises, no stock in trade, no commercial equipment beyond household use, and no exterior signage. A permit is required through County Zoning Review (314-615-2525 or 314-615-7814). Note: St. Louis County is highly fragmented — many residents live in incorporated municipalities (Kirkwood, Florissant, Chesterfield, etc.) each with their own rules. County-level rules apply only in unincorporated areas.

Health

No. State law §196.298(3)(1) explicitly prohibits the county health department from inspecting or regulating cottage food production operations. No routine or complaint-triggered inspections by county health.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Under state cottage food law, direct-to-consumer sales at the individual's home are the only authorized sale location under §196.298. Customer visits to pick up orders must not generate commercial-level traffic per county home occupation rules. Farmers market and roadside stand sales are NOT permitted under §196.298 (only home sales), though a separate Missouri statute allows events/markets in some counties.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

A commissary is a food establishment. Cottage food is not. Missouri cottage food is not a food-service establishment. A rented kitchen is permitted by the local health department or DHSS.

Official source: [Missouri DHSS food safety](#)

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

<https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/transportation-and-public-works/commercial-building/pw-commercial-guides/business-information/can-i-operate-a-small-business-out-of-my-home/>

<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

<https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/pdf/home-based-kitchen-food-prod-guidance.pdf>

https://library.municode.com/mo/st._louis_county/codes/code_of_ordinances

St. Louis County and nearby places

Regulation	St. Louis County	St. Charles County	St. Louis city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under state cottage food law, direct-to-consumer sales at the individual's home are the only authorized sale location under §196.298. Custo...	Direct sales only from home under §196.298 (no farmers markets, events, restaurants, or retail stores). Online/in-state shipping permitted ...	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail/wholesale
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	State law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Production must occur in the individual's ...	Missouri cottage food law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298) allows nonperishable baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads, danish, donuts, pastries, pie...	Non-TCS nonperishable foods; direct to consumer only; no state license or inspection; labeling required
FOOD STORAGE	State guidance recommends proper temperature, pest-free storage; no county-specific overlay.	Non-perishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, dried herbs only. No TCS foods.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	999,703	406,262	298,018

More pages for this place

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

Missouri permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/missouri.pdf

Missouri cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/missouri

St. Louis County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/missouri/st-louis-county