

## COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

# Can I sell from my kitchen in Carter County, Montana?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

**Yes**

HOME OCCUPATION

**Conditional**

BUSINESS LICENSE

**Varies**

SALES CAP

**—**

MONTANA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Montana permits PDF](#)[Montana cottage food law page](#)[Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services cottage food program](#)

Statute: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)

**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

## What you need

Carter County, Montana. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

**Yes**

ANNUAL SALES CAP

**—**

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

**Conditional**

LOCAL HEALTH

**Upon-complaint**

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

**Montana permits PDF →**

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

**Montana cottage food law page →**

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

**Permit page for this place →**

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/montana/carter-county>

**Carter County cottage food law page →**

<https://crosodo.com/states/montana/carter-county>

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

## Where to file

### State

Montana registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: Upon-complaint. Consignment sales at retail food establishments or through wholesale establishments are explicitly prohibited under §50-50-116(3). The Montana Local Food Choice Act also requires direct producer-to-informed-end-consumer transactions only; retail locations require a wholesale food license.

Montana permits PDF: [crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/montana.pdf](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/montana.pdf)

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

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

Statute: [Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 \(cottage food\)](#); [Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. \(Local Food Choice Act\)](#)

### Zoning / home occupation

Conditional. No specific Carter County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Ekalaka may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Carter County planning/zoning department.

### Health

Upon-complaint. No routine inspection under standard cottage food law. Local health authority access may be granted upon complaint. Under MLFCA track, no inspection required.

### Business license

Varies

### Pickup / delivery

Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, retail, or wholesale sales. Under MLFCA, any direct producer-to-consumer in-state transaction is permissible if consumer is informed food is unlicensed/uninspected.

### If you rent a commissary kitchen

**DPHHS / local health license retail food.** Montana cottage food and the Local Food Choice Act are home paths. A commissary is a retail food establishment licensed by the local health department.

Official source: [Montana FCSS](#)

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

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<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

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[https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0500/chapter\\_0500/part\\_0010/section\\_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html)

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## Carter County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Carter County                                                                                                                                   | Powder River County                                                                                                                             | Fallon County                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.                                 | Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production                                                                                            | Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.                                 |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (\$50-50-116), no consignment, ret... | Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer...  | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (\$50-50-116), no consignment, ret... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s...  | Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee wi... | Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s...  |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro...  | Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only                                                                     | Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro...  |
| POPULATION                 | 1,332                                                                                                                                           | 1,694                                                                                                                                           | 2,941                                                                                                                                           |

## More pages for this place

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

Montana permits PDF: [crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/montana.pdf](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/montana.pdf)

Montana cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/montana](https://crosodo.com/states/montana)

Carter County cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/montana/carter-county](https://crosodo.com/states/montana/carter-county)