

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Flathead County, Montana?

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

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

What you need

Flathead 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/flathead-county>

Flathead County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/montana/flathead-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

State law page: 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. Flathead County may have home occupation zoning requirements in its unincorporated areas. The City of Kalispell has its own zoning regulations. No specific Flathead County cottage food ordinance identified, but operators should verify with Flathead County Planning Department.

Health

Upon-complaint. Standard cottage food track: complaint-based inspection possible. Local Food Choice Act track: producers not considered 'retail food establishments' — no routine inspections.

Health: <https://www.flatheadcounty.gov/health>

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Standard cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, from home. No consignment. Local Food Choice Act: any direct producer-to-consumer transaction including home pickup, farmers markets, events. No indirect/retail sales without license under MLFCA.

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.flatheadcounty.gov/health>

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.flatheadcounty.gov/health>

<https://www.flathead.mt.gov>

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

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

Flathead County and nearby places

Regulation	Flathead County	Missoula County	Lewis and Clark County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction for cottage food operations.	No specific prohibition; standard food safety sanitation practices. Eating or drinking establishments are prohibited as home occupations un...	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Standard cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, from home. No consignment. Local Food Choice Act: any direct pr...	Deliveries/pickups associated with home occupation allowed 8 AM–7 PM per Missoula County Zoning \$5.17. No semi-tractor trailers. Montana st...	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Delivery...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (\$50-50-116): Non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in domestic residence, local healt...	Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food: requires registration with local health authority (Missoula City-County Health Departmen...	Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee wi...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard cottage food: non-potentially hazardous foods only. Local Food Choice Act: allows potentially hazardous foods in direct producer-t...	Standard track: non-PHF shelf-stable products. MLFCA track: any homemade food; producer must disclose unlicensed/uninspected status.	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only
POPULATION	105,950	118,541	71,487

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

Montana cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/montana

Flathead County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/montana/flathead-county