

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Lake 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 Lake County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Lake 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/lake-county>

Lake County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/montana/lake-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. No specific Lake County cottage food or home occupation rules found. City of Polson may have business license requirements. Recommend verifying with Lake 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.lakecounty.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.lakecounty.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

Lake County and nearby places

Regulation	Lake County	Sanders County	Flathead 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	No specific state restriction for cottage food operations.
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...	Standard cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, from home. No consignment. Local Food Choice Act: any direct pr...
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...	Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (§50-50-116); Non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in domestic residence, local healt...
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	Standard cottage food: non-potentially hazardous foods only. Local Food Choice Act: allows potentially hazardous foods in direct producer-t...
POPULATION	31,509	12,134	105,950

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

Lake County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/montana/lake-county