

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Lewis and Clark County, Montana?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies

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

What you need

Lewis and Clark 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

Varies

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/lewis-and-clark-county>

Lewis and Clark County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/montana/lewis-and-clark-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

Varies. Lewis and Clark County/Helena local ordinances may require a business permit for home-based sales. Lewis and Clark County Public Health (PHLicEst@lccountymt.gov, 406-457-8919) administers cottage food registration locally. Local towns/counties may have additional permit/licensing requirements for parking-lot or off-premises sales.

Health

Upon-complaint. Consumer complaint or illness investigation; producer must grant access for complaint-based inspection

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Delivery to purchaser permitted if producer delivers directly.

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.lccountymt.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.lccountymt.gov>

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

<https://www.lccountymt.gov/Government/Public-Health/Licensing-and-Inspections/Food-Facilities>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/CottageFood/cottagefoodfrequentlyaskedquestions2024.pdf>

Lewis and Clark County and nearby places

Regulation	Lewis and Clark County	Cascade County	Flathead County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production	Pets must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per Cascade County guidance.	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	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Delivery...	Direct sales to consumers at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment/retail/wholes...	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	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee wi...	Cascade County has a specific Cottage Food Operation guidance and registration application administered by the Cascade City-County Health D...	Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (§50-50-116): Non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in domestic residence, local health...
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only	Products must be properly stored and handled to prevent contamination.	Standard cottage food: non-potentially hazardous foods only. Local Food Choice Act: allows potentially hazardous foods in direct producer-t...
POPULATION	71,487	84,423	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

Lewis and Clark County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/montana/lewis-and-clark-county