

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

What you need

Missoula 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

Conditional

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/missoula-county>

Missoula County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/montana/missoula-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. Missoula County Zoning §5.17 governs home occupations. Key standards: operator must reside on property; max 1 non-resident employee/associate on-site; up to 3 clients/customers at one time on-site; all activities within enclosed building; no excessive noise/odors/traffic. NOTE: Section §5.17(D)(6) expressly prohibits 'eating or drinking establishments' as home occupations. This may require careful interpretation for cottage food (direct sales vs. eating establishment). Building Division may need to determine if change-of-use permit is required. Consult Missoula County Public Works Department Building Division.

Planning: <https://missoulacounty.us/departments/planning-development-and-sustainability/development-review/zoning-regulations>

Health

Upon-complaint. Standard track: registration may involve Missoula City-County Health Department review; complaints investigated. MLFCA track: no inspection required.

Health: <https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/food-lodging-body-art-child-care/food-services>

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Deliveries/pickups associated with home occupation allowed 8 AM–7 PM per Missoula County Zoning §5.17. No semi-tractor trailers. Montana standard track: direct sales only; MLFCA: direct producer-to-consumer only.

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.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/food-lodging-body-art-child-care/food-services>

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.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/food-lodging-body-art-child-care/food-services>

<https://missoulacounty.us/departments/planning-development-and-sustainability/development-review/zoning-regulations>

<https://www.missoulacounty.us>

<https://www.missoulacounty.gov/media/yvnpunrs/chapter-five-use-standards-and-conditions.pdf>

<https://missoulacounty.us/departments/planning-development-and-sustainability/development-review/zoning-regulations>

<https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/food-lodging-body-art-child-care/food-services>

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

Missoula County and nearby places

Regulation	Missoula County	Flathead County	Ravalli County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific prohibition; standard food safety sanitation practices. Eating or drinking establishments are prohibited as home occupations un...	No specific state restriction for cottage food operations.	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Deliveries/pickups associated with home occupation allowed 8 AM–7 PM per Missoula County Zoning §5.17. No semi-tractor trailers. Montana st...	Standard cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, from home. No consignment. Local Food Choice Act: any direct pr...	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Producer...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food: requires registration with local health authority (Missoula City-County Health Departmen...	Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (\$50-50-116): Non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in domestic residence, local healt...	Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee wi...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard track: non-PHF shelf-stable products. MLFCA track: any homemade food; producer must disclose unlicensed/uninspected status.	Standard cottage food: non-potentially hazardous foods only. Local Food Choice Act: allows potentially hazardous foods in direct producer-t...	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only
POPULATION	118,541	105,950	44,821

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

Missoula County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/montana/missoula-county