

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Mercer County, Pennsylvania?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT	HOME OCCUPATION	BUSINESS LICENSE	SALES CAP
Yes	Varies	Varies	—

PENNSYLVANIA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Pennsylvania permits PDF](#)[Pennsylvania cottage food law page](#)[Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture cottage food program](#)[Statute: 3 Pa.C.S. §§5721–5737](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Mercer County, Pennsylvania. 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

Yes

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

Pennsylvania permits PDF →

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

Pennsylvania cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/pennsylvania/mercercounty>

Mercer County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania/mercercounty>

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

Where to file

State

Pennsylvania registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: Yes. Registration includes sales direct from the production site including internet sales. However, a separate Retail Food Facility License may be required for sales at events or Farmers Markets. Businesses aiming to sell across state lines might also need FDA registration. The registration covers home-based operations in residential kitchens as well as residential-style kitchens in alternate locations such as churches, fire halls, or remodeled garages. Not available in Philadelphia County.

Pennsylvania permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/pennsylvania.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

Statute: [3 Pa.C.S. §§5721-5737](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Varies. Mercer County and city of Mercer may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific county overlay found. State LFE registration is primary regulatory requirement.

Health

Yes. Initial on-site inspection required before registration. Subsequent routine inspections apply. Submit application at least 60 days before operating.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

PDA Limited Food Establishment is still not a retail commissary. Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment covers certain residential-style kitchens. A retail commissary or shared kitchen typically needs a Retail Food Facility license as well. Ask PDA and the local health department.

Official source: [PDA limited food establishment](#)

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

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/limited-food-establishment.html>

Mercer County and nearby places

Regulation	Mercer County	Lawrence County	Crawford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard food safety GMP practices apply; inspection will assess kitchen cleanliness.	Not specifically stated in state law; kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.	Kitchen inspection evaluates overall conditions.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Pennsylvania allows direct sales and limited indirect sales. Online sales permitted with in-state delivery.	Pennsylvania LFE allows direct and limited indirect sales (farmers markets, events, online with in-state delivery, retail stores). Some TCS...	Pennsylvania LFE allows direct and limited indirect sales within Pennsylvania framework.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Pennsylvania requires a Limited Food Establishment registration with PA Department of Agriculture. Mercer County is outside Philadelphia Co...	Pennsylvania Limited Food Establishment (LFE) registration required (\$35 for 2-year registration). Initial on-site kitchen inspection requi...	Same as all PA counties (except Philadelphia): Limited Food Establishment registration (\$35, 2-year), initial kitchen inspection required, ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified/fermented foods have specific testing requirements.	No specific statutory storage requirement beyond general food safety.	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond general food safety.
POPULATION	110,600	85,907	83,876

More pages for this place

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

Pennsylvania permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/pennsylvania.pdf

Pennsylvania cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania

Mercer County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/pennsylvania/mercerc-county