



COTTAGE FOOD

Informational Sheet

Registration and Permitting

All cottage food operations (CFO) must be registered or permitted by San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services (EHS) before starting business. The issued registration or permit is nontransferable and is only valid for the person, location, type of food sales, and distribution activity specified by the issued registration or permit.

A CFO is operated by a cottage food operator and has not more than one full-time equivalent cottage food employee, which does not include a family member or household member of the cottage food operator. A CFO is located within the registered or permitted area of a private home where the cottage food operator resides and where cottage food products are prepared or packaged for direct, indirect, or both direct and indirect sale to consumers.

General Requirements

A CFO must meet the following requirements:

- Approval from your local city planning department.
- Obtain approval from San Bernardino County, Code Enforcement Department, if you live outside the limits of any incorporated areas. A [Home Occupation permit](#) for the cottage food permit/registration is required.
- Complete the [application](#) which includes the self-certification checklist. You may submit the application with the self-certification checklist and fee to one of our three office locations or via the [customer service email](#).

Office	Address
San Bernardino	385 N. Arrowhead Ave. 2 nd Floor, San Bernardino
Hesperia	15900 Smoke Tree St. Suite 131, Hesperia
Rancho Cucamonga	8575 Haven Ave. Suite 130, Rancho Cucamonga

Class A CFO Registration

Your home will not be inspected by our office unless we receive a complaint regarding food products prepared in your kitchen.

Class B CFO permit:

- An inspector will arrange to meet you at your residence to inspect your cottage food kitchen and storage areas before you are allowed to prepare cottage food. Once the inspector verifies that your kitchen and storage areas meet the requirements, you will be given approval to prepare cottage food.
- If the inspector determines that your kitchen does not meet the requirements, you will be required to make corrections before you are allowed to prepare cottage food.

Health Inspections

The health inspector will visit your residence to ensure that your kitchen and food storage areas meet the requirements for a cottage food operation. If the inspector determines that your kitchen does not meet the requirements for a cottage food operation, you will be required to make corrections before you are allowed to continue preparing cottage food. You are welcome to ask the inspector additional questions during the inspection. In addition to verifying that your kitchen and storage areas meet the requirements, the inspector is there to provide education and information.

Following the Approval

After you are allowed to prepare cottage food, you are required to take a [food processor course](#) within 90 days post application approval, as stated by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Upon successful completion of the test, at the end of this course, you will be able to print a food handler certificate. This certification is valid for three years and must be renewed every three years. Maintain the certification with all other pertaining paperwork.

For more information on registration and permitting

Visit [San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services](#) or the [CDPH website](#).

