COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Madison County

Alabama · Huntsville · FIPS 01089 · Population 389,781 · Crosodo Index #2312*

| STATE BASELINE | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 | Good | — | MEDIUM | 2026-10-06 |

**IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above. **Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision.** Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

# How to start — 60-second path

Madison County, Alabama — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

| | |
|---|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED? | STATE SALES CAP |
| Conditional | — |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT? | ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP? |
| Conditional | Yes |
| INSPECTION | PETS |
| No | No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval. |

## BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- [ ] **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Alabama cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- [ ] **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- [ ] **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- [ ] **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- [ ] **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- [ ] **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

## LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- [ ] Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- [ ] Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- [ ] Alabama home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

## CONTINUE ONLINE

**Open the live county page →**

**Alabama label one-pager →**

**Print labels for your first market →**

**Local notes & questions →**

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

ALABAMA: MADISON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2312* · FIPS 01089 · Huntsville

# Madison County

Population 389,781 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local county health department (Madison County Health Department). No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales and online/in-state shipping (added 2021). No wholesale.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Madison County municipalities (Huntsville, Madison, Athens area) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Huntsville is a rapidly growing city and has active planning/zoning enforcement.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Madison County Health Department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection.)

## Home kitchen rules

| | |
|---|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Conditional — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local county health department (Madison County Health Department). No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales and online/in-state shipping (added 2021). No wholesale. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval. |
| WATER SUPPLY | No specific state requirement; county health dept may review. |
| HANDWASHING | Required per county health department food safety standards. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing. |

## Inspection & permitting

| | |
|---|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No — Madison County Health Department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection. |
| LOCAL HEALTH / COUNTY REGISTRATION | Yes |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Madison County municipalities (Huntsville, Madison, Athens area) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Huntsville is a rapidly growing city and has active planning/zoning enforcement. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

## Customer-facing rules

| | |
|---|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No wholesale or retail establishment sales. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Not specified in state law; local zoning home occupation rules vary. |

## Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state cottage food); Madison County Health Department approval process.

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) confirmed from state baseline. Madison County (Huntsville) is a tech/research hub with significant growth. County health department approval required. Food safety course required first. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Madison County-specific fee/requirement details not directly verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.madisoncountyal.gov

https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/alabama/madison-county-discuss

# Madison County and nearby places

| Regulation | Madison County | Morgan County | Limestone County |
|---|---|---|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | **Conditional** | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | **No** | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | **No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval.** | No specific state prohibition for standard cottage foods; standard sanitation practices apply. | No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply. |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | **No** | No | No |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | **Yes** | Yes | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | **Conditional** | Conditional | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | **Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No wholesale or retail establishment sales.** | Alabama allows direct sales and online/in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). Interstate shipping not permitted. No wholesale or retail ... | Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted. Out-of-state shipping prohibited. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | **Conditional** | Conditional | Conditional |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | **Varies** | Varies | Varies |
| RESTRICTIONS | **Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local coun...** | Alabama allows non-potentially hazardous cottage foods from home kitchen. Producer must complete state-approved food safety course and get ... | Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion and approval from the local county health department before selling. Non-pote... |
| FOOD STORAGE | **Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.** | Shelf-stable non-TCS products. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing. | Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi... |
| POPULATION | **389,781** | 123,102 | 104,199 |

# State context — Alabama cottage food law

Madison County's rules sit on top of Alabama's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE
Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
No

KITCHEN INSPECTION
No

INDIRECT SALES
No — Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.

ANNUAL SALES CAP
—

FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Alabama cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/alabama.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama

State dept cottage food page: https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html

Forrager.com: https://forrager.com/law/alabama/

**Questions about Madison County?** Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/alabama/madison-county-discuss

RESEARCH NOTES

# Baker's Notes

Research notes, not a state ruling. Baker talk is what people discuss. Official pages are cited separately. Confirm before you sell.

## Sell to stores (next level)

Cottage / home-kitchen exemptions are usually direct-to-consumer and not for resale into stores. Selling into retail stores typically requires a state manufactured-food (or equivalent) permit and an inspected production kitchen, plus local zoning and business licensing.

**This county:** We have not collected local store-shelf notes for this place yet.

Confirm with the state food agency and local planning / commissioner offices before you sell into stores. Not legal advice.

# Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

## NATIONAL

### SUPPLIES

**Advertise here — Supplies**
Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

### COURSES

**Advertise here — Courses**
Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

### INSURANCE

**Advertise here — Insurance**
Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

## LOCAL

**Advertise here**
Reach home bakers in Madison County, Alabama. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.
crosodo.com/advertise

**Your business here**
Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.
crosodo.com/nb/alabama/madison-county-discuss

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