

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Mobile County

Alabama · Mobile · FIPS 01097 · Population 413,878 ·
Crosodo Index #2782*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.

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 →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

ALABAMA: MOBILE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2782* · FIPS 01097 · Mobile

Mobile County

Population 413,878 · 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 (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course); (2) approval from local 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, all perishable/TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales only; no wholesale/indirect sales.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Mobile County municipalities (Mobile city, Prichard, Saraland, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Alabama cottage food law approval goes through county health department, not county planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (County health department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection by Mobile County Health Department.)

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 (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course); (2) approval from local 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, all perishable/TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales only; no wholesale/indirect sales.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.

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	Yes — County health department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection by Mobile County Health Department.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Mobile County municipalities (Mobile city, Prichard, Saraland, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Alabama cottage food law approval goes through county health department, not county planning.
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 (added by 2021 amendment). No wholesale or sales to retail establishments.
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); Mobile County Health Department approval process.

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) confirmed from state baseline. 2021 amendment (SB 160/Act 2021-461) removed sales cap, expanded foods, added online sales. Food safety course required (county health dept reviews proof). Mobile County Health Department administers county-level approval. Alabama is notable for requiring county health dept approval — application and fees vary by county. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Mobile County-specific fees/requirements not directly verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mobilecountyal.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/mobile-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Mobile County	Baldwin County	Washington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (added by 2021 amendment). No wholesale or sales to retail establishm...	Direct sales only to consumers; online sales and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale to retail establishments.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or AC...	Must complete state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, ACES course) before operating. Must get county health department ap...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	413,878	233,420	15,434

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Mobile 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

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

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.

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 Mobile 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/mobile-county-discuss

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 Mobile 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/mobile-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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