

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Adams County

Colorado · Brighton · FIPS 08001 · Population 520,149 ·  
Crosodo Index #554\*

| STATE BASELINE    | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| C.R.S. §25-4-1614 | Great      | Tiered (see notes)       | HIGH       | 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

Adams County, Colorado — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

**Tiered (see notes)**

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Conditional**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**Upon-complaint**

PETS

**No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Colorado 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
- ☐ Colorado home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Colorado label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

## COLORADO: ADAMS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #554\* · FIPS 08001 · Brighton

## Adams County

Population 520,149 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **HIGH**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Adams County Business Guidebook (2025, official [adamscountyco.gov](https://www.adamscountyco.gov)) states: 'We do not have a license or permit specific to home occupations; however, you must abide by our Development Standards and Regulations.' Home occupation standards are in Adams County Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07. Jurisdiction is unincorporated Adams County only. For properties within cities (Brighton, Thornton, Aurora, Commerce City, Westminster), contact the respective city's Planning Department. A Retail Food License is NOT required if operating under the Colorado Cottage Food Act. Contact Planner of the Day at 720-523-6800 or [cedd-plan@adamscountyco.gov](mailto:cedd-plan@adamscountyco.gov).)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State: complaint-based. County: pre-permit site inspection possible.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply                                                                                                                         |
| WATER SUPPLY               | No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law                                                                                                                                            |
| HANDWASHING                | Implied by food safety training requirement                                                                                                                                                                |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard home kitchen storage; no outdoor storage per home occupation rules                                                                                                                                |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Upon-complaint — State: complaint-based. County: pre-permit site inspection possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Adams County Business Guidebook (2025, official <a href="https://www.adamscountyco.gov">adamscountyco.gov</a> ) states: 'We do not have a license or permit specific to home occupations; however, you must abide by our Development Standards and Regulations.' Home occupation standards are in Adams County Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07. Jurisdiction is unincorporated Adams County only. For properties within cities (Brighton, Thornton, Aurora, Commerce City, Westminster), contact the respective city's Planning Department. A Retail Food License is NOT required if operating under the Colorado Cottage Food Act. Contact Planner of the Day at 720-523-6800 or <a href="mailto:cedd-plan@adamscountyco.gov">cedd-plan@adamscountyco.gov</a> . |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                               |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Incidental pickup at home permitted. Farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online/mail/home delivery within Colorado. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. No retail/restaurant sales. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Adams County: no specific home occupation employee limit found; follow Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07                                                                        |

**Relevant county code**

Adams County Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07 (Home Occupations). State: C.R.S. §25-4-1614.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Adams County Business Guidebook 2025 PDF retrieved directly from [adamscountyco.gov](https://adamscountyco.gov). Explicitly states no separate home occupation permit in unincorporated Adams County — must follow Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07. Retail Food License is NOT required for cottage food operations under Colorado Cottage Food Act per the guidebook. For incorporated cities within Adams County, contact the specific city's planning department. Colorado state law: food safety training required, \$10,000 per-product cap, no retail/restaurant sales. Confidence high: official Adams County document directly retrieved.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.adcogov.org>

<https://adamscountyco.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/CED-2025-08-Business-Guidebook-English.pdf>

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dehs/cottage-foods>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/colorado/adams-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/adams-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Adams County                                                                                                                                    | Jefferson County                                                                                                                                | Arapahoe County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply                                                              | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply                                                              | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply                                                             |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                 |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | No                                                                                                                                             |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Incidental pickup at home permitted. Farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online/mail/home delivery within Colorado. \$10,000 per-pr... | Incidental pickup of goods permitted. Online and mail-order sales allowed. \$10,000 per-product annual cap within Colorado. No retail/restau... | Incidental pickup at home is permitted. Sales may occur at farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online with mail/home delivery with... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | No                                                                                                                                              | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire... | Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire... | Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorad... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard home kitchen storage; no outdoor storage per home occupation rules                                                                     | No outdoor storage per Jefferson County home occupation rules; storage within home/garage (up to 25% of garage)                                 | Products stored in home kitchen; no outdoor storage per Arapahoe County home occupation rules                                                  |
| POPULATION                 | 520,149                                                                                                                                         | 580,519                                                                                                                                         | 654,453                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

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### STATUTE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

### KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

### INDIRECT SALES

No — Products cannot be resold; producers must sell directly to consumers but may designate a representative to sell on their behalf. Sales through restaurants or retail stores are not permitted, though the health department may allow direct sales at those locations on a case-by-case basis.

### ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

### FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

### DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Colorado cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: [crosodo.com/states/colorado](https://crosodo.com/states/colorado).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a\\_158\\_signed.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a_158_signed.pdf)

State dept cottage food page: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/colorado/>

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**Questions about Adams 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/colorado/adams-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/adams-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Adams County, Colorado. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/colorado/adams-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/adams-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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