

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Douglas County

Colorado · Castle Rock · FIPS 08035 · Population 360,206 ·
Crosodo Index #2508*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

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: DOUGLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2508* · FIPS 08035 · Castle Rock

Douglas County

Population 360,206 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Colorado Cottage Food Act (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) allows non-refrigerated, non-PHF foods with no licensing or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$10,000 per product (not total). Free CDPHE registration required. Food safety training course required (CSU Extension ~\$50, or online food handler ~\$10-15). Allowed: baked goods, candies, tortillas, empanadas, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower), jams/jellies/preserves, fruit butter, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods. Prohibited: salsas, sauces, ketchup, mustards, meat jerkies, juices, kombucha, foods requiring refrigeration. Douglas County Health Department confirms Cottage Food Act permits sale without licensing or inspection.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Douglas County municipalities (Castle Rock, Parker, Highlands Ranch, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Operators should verify with local municipality. Douglas County itself (unincorporated areas) may have home occupation requirements. Check landlord or HOA policies if applicable.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection. Douglas County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Colorado Cottage Food Act (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) allows non-refrigerated, non-PHF foods with no licensing or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$10,000 per product (not total). Free CDPHE registration required. Food safety training course required (CSU Extension ~\$50, or online food handler ~\$10-15). Allowed: baked goods, candies, tortillas, empanadas, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower), jams/jellies/preserves, fruit butter, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods. Prohibited: salsas, sauces, ketchup, mustards, meat jerkies, juices, kombucha, foods requiring refrigeration. Douglas County Health Department confirms Cottage Food Act permits sale without licensing or inspection.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY

Apartment/condo kitchens qualify as long as it is primary residence. Check landlord/HOA policies.

HANDWASHING

Food safety training course required; handwashing per food safety training standards.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-refrigerated, non-PHF finished products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection. Douglas County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Douglas County municipalities (Castle Rock, Parker, Highlands Ranch, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Operators should verify with local municipality. Douglas County itself (unincorporated areas) may have home occupation requirements. Check landlord or HOA policies if applicable.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only (Colorado cottage food law is direct-to-consumer only). Internet sales permitted. In-state delivery permitted. No wholesale or retail store sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Food Act); Douglas County Zoning/home occupation ordinances.

RESEARCH NOTES

Douglas County Health Department has a dedicated cottage foods page confirming Colorado Cottage Food Act requirements: food safety certification required, no licensing/inspection needed. Official douglasco.gov .gov source confirmed. Colorado cottage food law well-documented from state baseline. \$10,000 per-product cap (not total) is distinctive — multiple products can exceed \$10,000 total combined. HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act) pending — would expand to allow refrigerated/meat items and remove per-product cap effective January 1, 2027 if enacted. Confidence high: both state law and Douglas County Health confirmed from .gov sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.douglas.co.us>

<https://www.douglasco.gov/health-department/farmers-markets-and-cottage-foods/>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Douglas County	Jefferson County	Arapahoe County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.	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	Direct sales only (Colorado cottage food law is direct-to-consumer only). Internet sales permitted. In-state delivery permitted. No wholesa...	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	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Colorado Cottage Food Act (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) allows non-refrigerated, non-PHF foods with no licensing or inspection required. Annual sales...	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	Non-refrigerated, non-PHF finished products only.	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	360,206	580,519	654,453

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Douglas 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.

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

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.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: 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/>

Questions about Douglas 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/douglas-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 Douglas County, Colorado. 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/colorado/douglas-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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