

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hillsborough County

Florida · Tampa · FIPS 12057 · Population 1,468,560 ·
Crosodo Index #2151*

STATE BASELINE

Fla. Stat. \$500.80

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

250000

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

Hillsborough County, Florida — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

250000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

State baseline applies

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Florida label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

FLORIDA: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2151* · FIPS 12057 · Tampa

Hillsborough County

Population 1,468,560 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food. Hillsborough County has no county-specific cottage food permit beyond what is required under Fla. Stat. §559.955 (home-based business conditions). No routine inspection; only upon complaint.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Florida state preemption bars local prohibition of cottage food. Home-based business conditions under §559.955 apply. Incorporated cities within Hillsborough County (Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City) may have home occupation permit requirements. No county-specific cottage food permit found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State: inspection only upon complaint (§500.80(7)). No county-level inspection authority for cottage food.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food. Hillsborough County has no county-specific cottage food permit beyond what is required under Fla. Stat. §559.955 (home-based business conditions). No routine inspection; only upon complaint.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline applies
HANDWASHING	State baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	Products may only be stored on cottage operation's premises.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State: inspection only upon complaint (§500.80(7)). No county-level inspection authority for cottage food.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Florida state preemption bars local prohibition of cottage food. Home-based business conditions under §559.955 apply. Incorporated cities within Hillsborough County (Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City) may have home occupation permit requirements. No county-specific cottage food permit found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows internet/mail order sales, event sales. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

Relevant county code

none county-specific found; Fla. Stat. §500.80 and §559.955 apply

RESEARCH NOTES

Hillsborough County (Tampa) follows Florida state baseline. State preemption is strong. No county-specific cottage food rules found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org>

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

[https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hillsborough County	Pinellas County	Polk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated	Not specified in state law
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows internet/mail order sales, event sales. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.	Sales allowed from residence, online, by mail-order, at farmers markets, flea markets, and roadside stands. Mail delivery explicitly permit...	Home, online, mail-order, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands. No wholesale to restaurants/ grocery stores. \$250,000 annual cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food. Hillsborough County has no county-specific cottage food permit beyond what is ...	Must be produced in operator's home kitchen only; no garages, sheds, barns, or outbuildings. Motor home kitchens are not permitted. Product...	Florida strong state preemption applies. Must be in operator's home kitchen only. Non-TCS foods only. Production and storage in single-fami...
FOOD STORAGE	Products may only be stored on cottage operation's premises.	Ingredients and finished products must be stored in the single-family domestic residence; spare rooms or basements free of dampness/ pests a...	Storage in single-family domestic residence only; no outbuildings
POPULATION	1,468,560	959,918	736,229

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Fla. Stat. §500.80	250000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Upon-complaint	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Limited (see notes) — Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

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

Questions about Hillsborough 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/florida/hillsborough-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 Hillsborough County, Florida. 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/florida/hillsborough-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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