

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Monroe County

Florida · Key West · FIPS 12087 · Population 82,044 ·
Crosodo Index #2570*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. \$500.80	Great	250000	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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

250000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

No

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific statutory restriction.

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: MONROE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2570* · FIPS 12087 · Key West

Monroe County

Population 82,044 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **HIGH****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Florida cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required before starting. Any non-TCS food allowed. \$250,000 annual sales cap. State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) prohibits local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, the home-based business must comply with Monroe County home occupation rules under §559.955.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific statutory restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Monroe County requires a Home Occupation Special Use Permit for residential businesses. Application fee: \$500 plus \$3 per property owner notification within 300-foot radius. The Director of Planning and Environmental Resources approves the permit. Key conditions: (1) home occupation is incidental/secondary to residential use; (2) must not change residential character; (3) max 1 non-resident employee; (4) may not exceed 20% of dwelling floor area; (5) no customer visits/retail sales requiring customers to come to the dwelling; (6) no outdoor signage; (7) no outdoor storage. The permit is not transferable.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

No

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections may occur only upon receipt of a complaint per §500.80(7).)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Florida cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required before starting. Any non-TCS food allowed. \$250,000 annual sales cap. State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) prohibits local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, the home-based business must comply with Monroe County home occupation rules under §559.955.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific statutory restriction.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific statutory requirement.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections may occur only upon receipt of a complaint per \$500.80(7).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Monroe County requires a Home Occupation Special Use Permit for residential businesses. Application fee: \$500 plus \$3 per property owner notification within 300-foot radius. The Director of Planning and Environmental Resources approves the permit. Key conditions: (1) home occupation is incidental/secondary to residential use; (2) must not change residential character; (3) max 1 non-resident employee; (4) may not exceed 20% of dwelling floor area; (5) no customer visits/retail sales requiring customers to come to the dwelling; (6) no outdoor signage; (7) no outdoor storage. The permit is not transferable.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	No
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Monroe County's home occupation permit specifically prohibits retail sales that require customers to visit the residential dwelling unit. Cottage food sales must therefore be conducted off-site (farmers markets, events, delivery to customers) or online with delivery. Customer pickup at the home is not permitted under Monroe County's home occupation standards.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-resident employee maximum per Monroe County Home Occupation Special Use Permit.

Relevant county code

Monroe County Code home occupation provisions (Home Occupation Special Use Permit requirements). Monroe County Planning & Environmental Resources administers.

RESEARCH NOTES

Monroe County (Florida Keys) is notable for its restrictive home occupation rules, which effectively prohibit on-site customer pickup and require a \$500 Special Use Permit. This is more restrictive than the state's permissive cottage food law. The county's Home Occupation Special Use Permit application was directly retrieved from the Monroe County government website (.monroecounty-fl.gov), confirming: \$500 fee, 300-foot neighbor notification, 20% floor area limit, no customer visits, no retail sales, max 1 non-resident employee. The no-customer-visits provision is a significant constraint for cottage food operators. Producers must sell at farmers markets, deliver to customers, or use online sales without home pickup. Confidence is high: county-specific information obtained from official Monroe County .gov document and county website URLs confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://monroe.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov>

<https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/134/Home-Occ-062023?bidId=>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Monroe County	Collier County	Miami-Dade County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific statutory restriction.	No specific state restriction.	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	No	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Monroe County's home occupation permit specifically prohibits retail sales that require customers to visit the residential dwelling unit. C...	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale.	County COU limits customer/delivery parking to on-site or right-of-way directly in front of home. Business activities must not generate mor...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Florida cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required before starting. Any non-TCS food allowed. \$250,000 annual sales cap....	Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC...	Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). Miami-Dade County requires a Certificate of Use (COU) ...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	Products may only be stored on the cottage operation's premises (state baseline).
POPULATION	82,044	380,221	2,688,237

State context — Florida cottage food law

Monroe 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 Monroe 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/monroe-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 Monroe 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/monroe-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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