

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chatham County

Georgia · Savannah · FIPS 13051 · Population 296,266 ·
Crosodo Index #2652*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); food handler certificate required; no license or inspection required; no sales cap; indirect sales allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	—	MEDIUM	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

Chatham County, Georgia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Georgia label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

GEORGIA: CHATHAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2652* · FIPS 13051 · Savannah

Chatham County

Population 296,266 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); food handler certificate required; no license or inspection required; no sales cap; indirect sales allowed ·

MEDIUM**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (GA does not preempt local zoning. Chatham County and City of Savannah may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local planning)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (GA Dept of Agriculture complaint-based)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — GA Dept of Agriculture complaint-based
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — GA does not preempt local zoning. Chatham County and City of Savannah may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail, online permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Same GA baseline as Clayton County. Chatham County includes Savannah — tourist destination with active local food scene. No county-specific overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chathamcountyga.gov>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Chatham County	Liberty County	Effingham County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies	No specific prohibition under new law; good manufacturing practice applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail, online permitted	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales all permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales permitted since July 2025. Interstate sales also allowed.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025	Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handle...	Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-PHF food. No license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only. Food handle...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods; proper storage required
POPULATION	296,266	65,550	65,314

State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

STATUTE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

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

Questions about Chatham 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/georgia/chatham-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 Chatham County, Georgia. 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/georgia/chatham-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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