

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Baltimore city

Maryland · Baltimore · FIPS 24510 · Population 584,548 ·  
Crosodo Index #1765\*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

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

Baltimore city, Maryland — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

**50000**

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Conditional**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**Upon-complaint**

PETS

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

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Maryland label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

## MARYLAND: BALTIMORE CITY

CROSODO INDEX #1765\* · FIPS 24510 · Baltimore

## Baltimore city

Population 584,548 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods only. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Must comply with all applicable city laws and ordinances. Baltimore City is an independent city with its own health department regulations.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Baltimore City is an independent city (equivalent to a county) with its own health department and zoning code. Maryland state guidelines direct producers to 'contact your local permits, licensing and zoning department.' Baltimore City Zoning Code governs home occupations. Cottage food businesses must comply with city zoning, and a home occupation permit or business license from Baltimore City may be required. Baltimore City Health Department may have additional requirements.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based inspection only per Maryland state cottage food guidelines; Baltimore City Health Department may also have authority)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Must comply with all applicable city laws and ordinances. Baltimore City is an independent city with its own health department regulations. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards                                                                                                                                             |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Municipal water supply (Baltimore City); no separate testing requirement for cottage food                                                                                                                                |
| HANDWASHING                | Recommended but not explicitly required by state regulation                                                                                                                                                              |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Upon-complaint — Complaint-based inspection only per Maryland state cottage food guidelines; Baltimore City Health Department may also have authority                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Baltimore City is an independent city (equivalent to a county) with its own health department and zoning code. Maryland state guidelines direct producers to 'contact your local permits, licensing and zoning department.' Baltimore City Zoning Code governs home occupations. Cottage food businesses must comply with city zoning, and a home occupation permit or business license from Baltimore City may be required. Baltimore City Health Department may have additional requirements. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

### Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer sales: home, farmers markets, public events, personal delivery, mail order within Maryland. Sales to retail stores require MDH review. \$50,000 annual cap. No out-of-state sales. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state cottage food law                                                                                                                                                               |

### Relevant county code

Baltimore City Zoning Code (home occupation provisions). State: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Baltimore City is an independent city in Maryland (not part of any county). Same state baseline as Anne Arundel County. Maryland state cottage food guidelines explicitly say operators must comply with county/municipal laws and contact local zoning. Baltimore City has its own health department and zoning authority. Unlike Anne Arundel County, no specific Baltimore City ordinance equivalent to Bill 81-20 was found in research. Confidence medium: state baseline confirmed; Baltimore City-specific zoning/home occupation permit requirements not retrieved.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baltimorecity.gov>

[https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Updated\\_CF\\_Guidelines\\_2025.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Updated_CF_Guidelines_2025.pdf)

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Baltimore city                                                                                                                                  | Anne Arundel County                                                                                                                             | Baltimore 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                                                                    | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards                                                                    | Not specified; standard sanitation applies                                                                                                      |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer sales: home, farmers markets, public events, personal delivery, mail order within Maryland. Sales to retail stores requi...  | Direct-to-consumer sales: home, farmers markets, public events, personal delivery, mail order within Maryland. Sales to retail stores requi...  | Farmers markets, fairs, festivals, customer pickup from home, retail stores (up to 50% of sales), and personal/ mail delivery within Marylan... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Non-potentially hazardous foods only. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Must comply with all applicable city laws and ordinances. Baltimore C... | Non-potentially hazardous foods only. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. MDH review required for sales at retail stores (Class B equivalent); ... | State baseline applies. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual cap \$50,000. Cottage food businesses must comply with applicable count... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods                                                                                        | Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods                                                                                        | Standard food storage per MDH guidelines                                                                                                        |
| POPULATION                 | 584,548                                                                                                                                         | 588,109                                                                                                                                         | 850,737                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Maryland cottage food law

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| STATUTE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ANNUAL SALES CAP  |
| MD COMAR 10.15.03.27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 50000             |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| Depends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Recommended       |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No                |
| INDIRECT SALES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                   |
| Limited (see notes) — Sales at retail food stores (indirect) are allowed but require prior submission of labels and documentation of ANSI-accredited food safety course completion to the Maryland Department of Health before any retail sales can commence. The Department must notify the producer in writing that requirements are met before retail sales begin. |                   |

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

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

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

**Questions about Baltimore city?** 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/maryland/baltimore-city-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/baltimore-city-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 Baltimore city, Maryland. 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/maryland/baltimore-city-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/baltimore-city-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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