

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Baltimore County

Maryland • Towson • FIPS 24005 • Population 850,737 •
Crosodo Index #1694*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; annual cap \$50,000

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 County, 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

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

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 COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1694* · FIPS 24005 · Towson

Baltimore County

Population 850,737 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; annual cap \$50,000 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline applies. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual cap \$50,000. Cottage food businesses must comply with applicable county and municipal laws. Contact Baltimore County zoning/permits.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Baltimore County has home occupation permit requirements for home-based businesses. Contact Baltimore County Office of Permits, Approvals and Inspections (PAI) or the Zoning Review Division. Maryland cottage food guidelines state: cottage food businesses must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Baltimore County Health Department may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual cap \$50,000. Cottage food businesses must comply with applicable county and municipal laws. Contact Baltimore County zoning/permits.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per MDH guidelines

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Baltimore County Health Department may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Baltimore County has home occupation permit requirements for home-based businesses. Contact Baltimore County Office of Permits, Approvals and Inspections (PAI) or the Zoning Review Division. Maryland cottage food guidelines state: cottage food businesses must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Farmers markets, fairs, festivals, customer pickup from home, retail stores (up to 50% of sales), and personal/mail delivery within Maryland. \$50,000 annual cap. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

COMAR 10.15.03.27; Baltimore County Zoning Regulations for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

Baltimore County follows Maryland state baseline. The 2025 MDH guidelines explicitly state cottage food businesses must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws. Baltimore County has separate county government from Baltimore City (an independent city). No Baltimore County-specific cottage food ordinance beyond state rules was found. County zoning/permits office should be consulted for home occupation requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/health>

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/permits>

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov>

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-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Baltimore County'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.

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 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/maryland/baltimore-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 Baltimore County, Maryland. 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/maryland/baltimore-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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