

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Calvert County

Maryland · Prince Frederick · FIPS 24009 · Population
93,244 · Crosodo Index #1599*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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

Calvert 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

No specific restriction under Maryland cottage food law.

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: CALVERT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1599* · FIPS 24009 · Prince Frederick

Calvert County

Population 93,244 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Maryland cottage food law (COMAR 10.15.03.27): \$50,000 annual sales cap. No routine inspection (complaint-based only). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food safety training recommended. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters, dry goods, snacks, and other non-PHF foods produced by licensed entity. Prohibited: PHF foods requiring refrigeration, all acidified/pickled products (pickles, salsa, pepper jelly, mustard, BBQ sauce), fermented foods, garlic/vegetables in oil, dairy, meats.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific restriction under Maryland cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Calvert County has a Home Occupation permit process through Planning & Zoning (www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation). Operators should review county home occupation permit requirements before beginning cottage food sales. Calvert County Planning & Zoning administers home occupation permits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Maryland Department of Health may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Maryland cottage food law (COMAR 10.15.03.27): \$50,000 annual sales cap. No routine inspection (complaint-based only). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food safety training recommended. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters, dry goods, snacks, and other non-PHF foods produced by licensed entity. Prohibited: PHF foods requiring refrigeration, all acidified/pickled products (pickles, salsa, pepper jelly, mustard, BBQ sauce), fermented foods, garlic/vegetables in oil, dairy, meats.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific restriction under Maryland cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement for home operations under standard COMAR rules.

HANDWASHING

Food safety training recommended; no mandatory statutory requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only. Prohibited: acidified foods, fermented foods, TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Maryland Department of Health may inspect upon consumer complaint.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Calvert County has a Home Occupation permit process through Planning & Zoning (www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation). Operators should review county home occupation permit requirements before beginning cottage food sales. Calvert County Planning & Zoning administers home occupation permits.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales. Retail stores allowed with optional registration. Online/mail order within Maryland. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated in COMAR 10.15.03.27.

Relevant county code

Calvert County Home Occupation permit (Planning & Zoning); calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation

RESEARCH NOTES

Calvert County has a confirmed Home Occupation permit process at calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation (confirmed via Exa search). Calvert County also has a Licensing & Permits page at calvertcountymd.gov/3365/Licensing-Permits. Maryland's cottage food rules were last amended November 2024 (emergency rule). The prohibition on acidified/fermented/pickled products is a notable restriction — Maryland prohibits salsa, pepper jelly, BBQ sauce, etc. Calvert County is in Southern Maryland (Chesapeake Bay region).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation>

<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov>

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

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

<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation>

<http://calvertcountymd.gov/3365/Licensing-Permits>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Calvert County	St. Mary's County	Charles County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific restriction under Maryland cottage food law.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.	No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and limited indirect sales. Retail stores allowed with optional registration. Online/mail order within Maryland. No out-of-state sal...	Maryland allows direct sales and limited indirect retail sales (requires food handler cert for retail channel). Online and mail order prohi...	Direct sales at home, online within Maryland, limited retail store sales with food safety training.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maryland cottage food law (COMAR 10.15.03.27): \$50,000 annual sales cap. No routine inspection (complaint-based only). Registration optiona...	Maryland allows non-PHF cottage foods from residential kitchen. \$50,000 annual revenue cap. Registration (free online ID) optional unless s...	Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-PHF foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented foods. Inspections upo...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only. Prohibited: acidified foods, fermented foods, TCS foods.	Non-PHF shelf-stable products only. No refrigerated or TCS foods. Acidified foods, fermented foods, pickles, salsas prohibited. Separate On...	Shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated products.
POPULATION	93,244	113,814	167,035

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Calvert 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 Calvert 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/calvert-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 Calvert 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/calvert-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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