

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Carroll County

Maryland · Westminster · FIPS 24013 · Population 173,225 ·
Crosodo Index #2577*

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

Carroll County, Maryland — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address 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: CARROLL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2577* · FIPS 24013 · Westminster

Carroll County

Population 173,225 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented foods. Inspections upon complaint only. Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food handler cert recommended; required if selling at retail stores.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Carroll County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 158, approved December 2021) defines Home Occupation as accessory use in residential zones — max 500 sq ft, no retail sales from premises, no significant nonresidential traffic, no exterior indicators. Cottage Industry (manufacturing/assembly by residents) is a separate category requiring Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing. Home occupation requires Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing in residential zones. Carroll County zoning allows online/internet-based sales from home occupation. Westminster city has its own zoning division for properties within city limits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon consumer complaint or illness report.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented foods. Inspections upon complaint only. Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food handler cert recommended; required if selling at retail stores.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water supply required.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing per MDH cottage food guidelines.

FOOD STORAGE

Shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated products allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon consumer complaint or illness report.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — Carroll County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 158, approved December 2021) defines Home Occupation as accessory use in residential zones — max 500 sq ft, no retail sales from premises, no significant nonresidential traffic, no exterior indicators. Cottage Industry (manufacturing/assembly by residents) is a separate category requiring Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing. Home occupation requires Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing in residential zones. Carroll County zoning allows online/internet-based sales from home occupation. Westminster city has its own zoning division for properties within city limits.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at home (limited customer visits per zoning), online within Maryland, and limited indirect sales to retail stores with ANSI food safety training. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Home Occupation: residents only (no retail sales from premises). Cottage Industry: up to 2 nonresident employees.

Relevant county code

Carroll County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 158 (Home Occupation, Cottage Industry); MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

RESEARCH NOTES

Carroll County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 158 directly retrieved from carrollcountymd.gov (approved December 2, 2021). Distinguishes Home Occupation (residents only, no retail, up to 500 sq ft, internet sales allowed) from Cottage Industry (up to 2 nonresident employees, manufactured goods). Both require Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing. Maryland DOH FAQ (September 2025) confirms no state license required but local rules may vary. Westminster city has separate zoning from county. Maryland prohibits acidified foods under the standard cottage food framework.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov>

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

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/media/15330/chapter-158-bcc-approved-december-2-2021.pdf>

[https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Copy%20of%20CF%20FAQs%20Updated%20Revised_September_2025_FINAL_SBed09242025.docx%20\(1\).pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Copy%20of%20CF%20FAQs%20Updated%20Revised_September_2025_FINAL_SBed09242025.docx%20(1).pdf)

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Carroll County	Frederick County	Howard County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	Standard sanitation applies; no specific state pet rule
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales at home (limited customer visits per zoning), online within Maryland, and limited indirect sales to retail stores with ANSI fo...	Direct sales to end consumers; indirect sales (retail stores) allowed with MDH ID number and food handler certification. No wholesale via b...	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events, online (Maryland only); wholesale to grocers requires MDH compliance letter; no out-of...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented food...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optiona...	Non-TCS non-perishable foods only; \$50,000 annual gross sales cap; labeling required; MDH compliance letter required for wholesale/grocery ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated products allowed.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	173,225	273,829	332,011

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Carroll 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 Carroll 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/carroll-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 Carroll 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/carroll-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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