

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cecil County

Maryland · Elkton · FIPS 24015 · Population 103,876 ·
Crosodo Index #1756*

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

Cecil 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 state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but 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: CECIL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1756* · FIPS 24015 · Elkton

Cecil County

Population 103,876 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods (non-refrigerated), non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), and certain snacks. Annual sales cap of \$50,000. Food handler cert recommended for retail store channel only. Complaint-based inspections. Registration (free online ID number) optional unless selling at retail stores.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Cecil County and Elkton may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Cecil County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state residential kitchen framework.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based inspections only. No routine kitchen inspection for cottage food operations (separate from the pre-operational inspection required for formal Residential Kitchen Permit if seeking retail channel).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods (non-refrigerated), non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), and certain snacks. Annual sales cap of \$50,000. Food handler cert recommended for retail store channel only. Complaint-based inspections. Registration (free online ID number) optional unless selling at retail stores.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement, though private well and septic may have additional testing requirements.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required. Food handler cert recommended (required for retail channel).
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. Prohibited: meringue/cheesecake/cream/custard pies, baked goods with refrigerated cream cheese or buttercream icing, low-acid canned foods, acidified foods/pickled products (pickles, salsa, pepper jelly, mustard, BBQ sauce), garlic/vegetables in oil, raw sprouts, fish, shellfish, meat, poultry, milk/dairy products, beverages, fermented foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based inspections only. No routine kitchen inspection for cottage food operations (separate from the pre-operational inspection required for formal Residential Kitchen Permit if seeking retail channel).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Cecil County and Elkton may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Cecil County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state residential kitchen framework.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Retail store sales require free optional registration and food handler cert. Online sales and delivery permitted within Maryland. \$50,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Cecil County code section identified. State law governs: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cecil County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Maryland's \$50,000 cap is confirmed from COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1). Cecil County is in the northeastern corner of Maryland near Delaware. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cecilcounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cecil County	Harford County	Kent County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but standard sanitation applies.	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Retail store sales require free optional registration and food handler cert. Online s...	Direct and some indirect sales (retail) allowed; retail store sales require food handler certification and MDH ID number. No wholesale via ...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods (non-refrigerated), non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Optional free MDH ID number (required only if se...	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. Prohibited: meringue/cheesecake/cream/custard pies, baked goods with refrigerated cream cheese or buttercream icing, lo...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; extensive prohibited list including pickles, salsas, acidified foods, dairy, meat	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.
POPULATION	103,876	261,059	19,289

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Cecil 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 Cecil 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/cecil-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 Cecil 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/cecil-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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