

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Frederick County

Maryland · Frederick · FIPS 24021 · Population 273,829 ·  
Crosodo Index #2567\*

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

Frederick 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

**Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment**

### 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: FREDERICK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2567\* · FIPS 24021 · Frederick

## Frederick County

Population 273,829 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **HIGH**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optional free ID number from MDH (required only if selling through retail stores). Frederick County Health Department has a dedicated Cottage Food Business page. Home occupation permit required for zoning compliance.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Frederick County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 1-19) requires home occupation permit for residential-zone businesses. Maryland is a Dillon's Rule state — municipalities need specific zoning authority. Home occupation must be secondary to residential use; no external signage, limited employees, limited customer visits.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint or foodborne illness investigation)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optional free ID number from MDH (required only if selling through retail stores). Frederick County Health Department has a dedicated Cottage Food Business page. Home occupation permit required for zoning compliance. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Public water or private well; private well water testing required                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| HANDWASHING                | Adequate handwashing facilities required per state sanitation standards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Upon-complaint — Complaint or foodborne illness investigation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Yes — Frederick County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 1-19) requires home occupation permit for residential-zone businesses. Maryland is a Dillon's Rule state — municipalities need specific zoning authority. Home occupation must be secondary to residential use; no external signage, limited employees, limited customer visits. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                           |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | No                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales to end consumers; indirect sales (retail stores) allowed with MDH ID number and food handler certification. No wholesale via brokers. Sales must remain within Maryland. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state rules; home occupation ordinance limits non-resident employees                                                                                                 |

**Relevant county code**

Frederick County Code Ch. 1-19 (Zoning Ordinance), §1-19-8.240 (Accessory Uses); [health.frederickcountymd.gov/681/Cottage-Food-Business](https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/681/Cottage-Food-Business)

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Frederick County Health Department has a dedicated Cottage Food Business page ([health.frederickcountymd.gov/681](https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/681)) confirming program exists at county level and follows Maryland state rules. County zoning bill document (Bill No. 23-21) confirmed the home occupation provisions in §1-19-8.240 of the Frederick County Zoning Ordinance. CityRuleLookup confirms home occupation permit required, business license required, and \$50K MD state cap applies. Maryland state COMAR 10.15.03.27 is the operative regulation. Confidence high due to specific county health department URL found.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/681/Cottage-Food-Business>

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov>

<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/681/Cottage-Food-Business>

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

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/frederick-county-md>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Frederick County                                                                                                                                | Howard County                                                                                                                                   | Carroll County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment                                                              | Standard sanitation applies; no specific state pet rule                                                                                         | No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.                                                                     |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | No                                                                                                                                              | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | 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...  | Direct sales at home (limited customer visits per zoning), online within Maryland, and limited indirect sales to retail stores with ANSI fo...  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | 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 ... | Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented food... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply                                                                       | Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions                                                                                                | Shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated products allowed.                                                                                         |
| POPULATION                 | 273,829                                                                                                                                         | 332,011                                                                                                                                         | 173,225                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Maryland cottage food law

Frederick 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](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 Frederick 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/frederick-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/frederick-county-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 Frederick County, 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/frederick-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/frederick-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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