

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

St. Mary's County

Maryland · Leonardtown · FIPS 24037 · Population 113,814 ·
Crosodo Index #2428*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler cert recommended;
inspection upon complaint; registration depends on sales channel; limited indirect sales

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	50000	MEDIUM	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

St. Mary's County, Maryland — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

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: ST. MARY'S COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2428* · FIPS 24037 · Leonardtown

St. Mary's County

Population 113,814 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler cert recommended; inspection upon complaint; registration depends on sales channel; limited indirect sales · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Maryland allows non-PHF cottage foods from residential kitchen. \$50,000 annual revenue cap. Registration (free online ID) optional unless selling at retail stores. St. Mary's County follows state baseline.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific St. Mary's County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Maryland state cottage food law does not require local permits. St. Mary's County zoning may require home occupation approval for home-based businesses. Contact St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (MDH may inspect upon consumer complaint. No routine inspections for standard cottage food track.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Maryland allows non-PHF cottage foods from residential kitchen. \$50,000 annual revenue cap. Registration (free online ID) optional unless selling at retail stores. St. Mary's County follows state baseline.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well users may require water quality testing per MDH inspection guidelines.
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification recommended (not mandatory for most channels). Required if selling at retail stores.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable products only. No refrigerated or TCS foods. Acidified foods, fermented foods, pickles, salsas prohibited. Separate On-Farm Home Processing License available for certain pickled goods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — MDH may inspect upon consumer complaint. No routine inspections for standard cottage food track.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific St. Mary's County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Maryland state cottage food law does not require local permits. St. Mary's County zoning may require home occupation approval for home-based businesses. Contact St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Maryland allows direct sales and limited indirect retail sales (requires food handler cert for retail channel). Online and mail order prohibited. \$50,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (MD tier Good). Maryland \$50,000 cap confirmed, most recently amended Nov 2024 (emergency rule). St. Mary's County is in southern MD near Naval Air Station Patuxent River. No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME<https://www.stmarysmd.com><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/st-mary-s-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

State context — Maryland cottage food law

St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's 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/st-mary-s-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 St. Mary's 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/st-mary-s-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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