

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

St. Louis city

Missouri · St. Louis · FIPS 29510 · Population 298,018 ·
Crosodo Index #474*

STATE BASELINE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298; no registration or inspection required; no sales cap; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Great	—	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. Louis city, Missouri — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Missouri 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
- ☐ Missouri home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Missouri label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MISSOURI: ST. LOUIS CITY

CROSODO INDEX #474* · FIPS 29510 · St. Louis

St. Louis city

Population 298,018 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298; no registration or inspection required; no sales cap; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods · **MEDIUM**

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

Yes (Non-TCS nonperishable foods; direct to consumer only; no state license or inspection; labeling required)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (St. Louis city is an independent city (not part of any county). City of St. Louis has its own zoning code; home-based businesses typically require a home occupation permit through the city Planning & Urban Design Agency. Operator should verify with St. Louis city zoning)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Complaint-based possible)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS nonperishable foods; direct to consumer only; no state license or inspection; labeling required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Complaint-based possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — St. Louis city is an independent city (not part of any county). City of St. Louis has its own zoning code; home-based businesses typically require a home occupation permit through the city Planning & Urban Design Agency. Operator should verify with St. Louis city zoning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail/wholesale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

St. Louis City zoning code (independent city)

RESEARCH NOTES

St. Louis city is an independent city (not in St. Louis County). Has its own comprehensive zoning code and likely requires home occupation permit for any home-based business. Pattern-status entry. Business license likely required from city.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/missouri/st-louis-city-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	St. Louis city	St. Louis County	Madison County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	No county-specific cottage food pet restrictions found; state law silent on pets. Standard home kitchen hygiene practices apply.	Not specified in state statute; sanitary production required
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail/wholesale	Under state cottage food law, direct-to-consumer sales at the individual's home are the only authorized sale location under §196.298. Custo...	Direct in-state sales only; online sales allowed but non-perishable items only, shipped within Illinois. No out-of-state shipping. Farmers ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS nonperishable foods; direct to consumer only; no state license or inspection; labeling required	State law (§196.298) prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production. Production must occur in the individual's ...	Prohibited-list approach — almost anything not on prohibited list allowed. Food Safety Manager certification (CFPM-level) required. Registr...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	State guidance recommends proper temperature, pest-free storage; no county-specific overlay.	Broad — most non-TCS foods allowed; acidified and fermented foods require additional documentation (food safety plan, pH test)
POPULATION	298,018	999,703	265,512

State context — Missouri cottage food law

St. Louis city's rules sit on top of Missouri's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Under §196.298, sales must be directly to consumers from the producer's home. Events, farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, and roadside stands are not permitted under this law. Internet/online sales are allowed but only if both the producer and buyer are located in Missouri. Local health departments are explicitly prohibited from regulating the production of food at cottage food operations. A separate Missouri statute (individual stands law) allows sales at events and roadside stands in counties that have adopted it, permitting most other nonperishable foods.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Missouri cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/missouri.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/missouri/>

Questions about St. Louis city? 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/missouri/st-louis-city-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. Louis city, Missouri. 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/missouri/st-louis-city-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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