

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cascade County

Montana · Great Falls · FIPS 30013 · Population 84,423 ·
Crosodo Index #546*

STATE BASELINE

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.
(Local Food Choice Act)

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Freedom	—	HIGH	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

Cascade County, Montana — 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

Upon-complaint

PETS

Pets must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per Cascade County guidance.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Montana label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

MONTANA: CASCADE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #546* · FIPS 30013 · Great Falls

Cascade County

Population 84,423 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act) · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Cascade County has a specific Cottage Food Operation guidance and registration application administered by the Cascade City-County Health Department. One-time registration fee of \$40. Approved foods include non-PHF items: baked goods (bread, cakes, pastries, cookies, crackers, granola, nuts/mixes, pies), dried fruits/herbs (pH ≤4.6), standardized jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters (≥55% sugar), popcorn/cotton candy, fudge/candies with cooking step, molded chocolate. Prohibited: buttercream/cream cheese frostings, pepper/low-sugar jams, products with meat or cheese, cheesecake, pumpkin/meringue/custard/unbaked fruit pies, no-bake cookies. Montana Local Food Choice Act (§§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional broader pathway for direct producer-to-consumer transactions.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per Cascade County guidance.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (A home occupancy license or certificate may be required. City of Great Falls Planning: 406-455-8414 (City of Great Falls Home Occupation Application). Unincorporated areas: Cascade County Planning Department: 406-454-6905 (Cascade County Home Occupation Permit Application). This is explicitly noted in the Cascade County Cottage Food Operation guidance document.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Applicant grants local health official access to residence for inspection in event of complaint based on illness associated with products. No routine inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Cascade County has a specific Cottage Food Operation guidance and registration application administered by the Cascade City-County Health Department. One-time registration fee of \$40. Approved foods include non-PHF items: baked goods (bread, cakes, pastries, cookies, crackers, granola, nuts/mixes, pies), dried fruits/herbs (pH ≤4.6), standardized jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters (≥55% sugar), popcorn/cotton candy, fudge/candies with cooking step, molded chocolate. Prohibited: buttercream/cream cheese frostings, pepper/low-sugar jams, products with meat or cheese, cheesecake, pumpkin/meringue/custard/unbaked fruit pies, no-bake cookies. Montana Local Food Choice Act (§§50-49-201 et seq.) provides an additional broader pathway for direct producer-to-consumer transactions.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per Cascade County guidance.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific additional requirement identified in county guidance.

HANDWASHING

Food must be produced in a clean kitchen; food-contact surfaces must be cleaned and sanitized. Standard hygiene practices required.

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be properly stored and handled to prevent contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Applicant grants local health official access to residence for inspection in event of complaint based on illness associated with products. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — A home occupancy license or certificate may be required. City of Great Falls Planning: 406-455-8414 (City of Great Falls Home Occupation Application). Unincorporated areas: Cascade County Planning Department: 406-454-6905 (Cascade County Home Occupation Permit Application). This is explicitly noted in the Cascade County Cottage Food Operation guidance document.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment/retail/wholesale. Under MLFCA, broader direct-to-consumer transactions permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in county guidance or state law.

Relevant county code

Administrative Rules of Montana 37.110 Subchapter 5 (Cottage Food Operations). Cascade County Cottage Food Operation Guidance and Registration Application (2023 version). City of Great Falls Home Occupation Application. Cascade County Home Occupation Permit Application.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cascade County is notable for having specific county-level cottage food guidance from the Cascade City-County Health Department, including a registration application with a \$40 one-time fee. The county guidance document explicitly lists approved and prohibited foods, sanitation requirements, labeling requirements, and notes that a home occupancy license may be required from either City of Great Falls Planning (406-455-8414) or Cascade County Planning (406-454-6905). The county .gov website confirms these resources. Confidence is high: county-specific guidance obtained from official Cascade County government website (.cascadecountymt.gov).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cascadecountymt.gov>

<https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/576/Home-Kitchens>

https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2186/2023_CCHD-Cottage-Food-Application-PDF?bidId=

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cascade County	Lewis and Clark County	Chouteau County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets must be excluded from the kitchen during food production per Cascade County guidance.	Pets must be excluded from kitchen during production	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment/retail/wholes...	Face-to-face transaction required. Online advertising allowed but actual sale must be in-person. No third-party delivery services. Delivery...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, ret...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Cascade County has a specific Cottage Food Operation guidance and registration application administered by the Cascade City-County Health D...	Must produce in primary residence kitchen. Pets must be excluded during production. No routine inspection. One-time \$40 registration fee wi...	Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be properly stored and handled to prevent contamination.	Products stored appropriately; temporary vehicle storage for transport only	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro...
POPULATION	84,423	71,487	5,897

State context — Montana cottage food law

Cascade County's rules sit on top of Montana's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Upon-complaint	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — Consignment sales at retail food establishments or through wholesale establishments are explicitly prohibited under §50-50-116(3). The Montana Local Food Choice Act also requires direct producer-to-informed-end-consumer transactions only; retail locations require a wholesale food license.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

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

Questions about Cascade 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/montana/cascade-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 Cascade County, Montana. 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/montana/cascade-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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