

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Hamilton County

Ohio · Cincinnati · FIPS 39061 · Population 827,671 · Crosodo Index #755\*

## STATE BASELINE

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

## 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

Hamilton County, Ohio — 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

**Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Ohio label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

## OHIO: HAMILTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #755\* · FIPS 39061 · Cincinnati

## Hamilton County

Population 827,671 · State baseline: O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20 ·

MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No registration required. No sales cap. Approved products only (state OAC 901:3-20-04 list). No reduced oxygen packaging. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Hamilton County includes the City of Cincinnati and other municipalities. Cincinnati has a Home Occupation license requirement for home-based businesses. Contact Cincinnati Development Services or the applicable municipality's planning department. Hamilton County Building & Zoning governs unincorporated areas.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection authority for cottage food operations. Ohio Dept. of Agriculture may investigate foodborne illness.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — No registration required. No sales cap. Approved products only (state OAC 901:3-20-04 list). No reduced oxygen packaging. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                    |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies                                                                                                             |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required; state baseline                                                                                                                                |
| HANDWASHING                | No state requirement for food handler certification under cottage food exemption                                                                                      |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard food storage practices; non-PHF foods only                                                                                                                   |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No inspection authority for cottage food operations. Ohio Dept. of Agriculture may investigate foodborne illness.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — Hamilton County includes the City of Cincinnati and other municipalities. Cincinnati has a Home Occupation license requirement for home-based businesses. Contact Cincinnati Development Services or the applicable municipality's planning department. Hamilton County Building & Zoning governs unincorporated areas. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Home delivery, farmers markets, events, online all permitted within Ohio. No out-of-state sales. No wholesale restriction explicitly — but approved product list limits apply. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Relevant county code**

O.R.C. §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20-04; Hamilton County/Cincinnati municipal zoning

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Hamilton County follows Ohio state baseline for cottage food. Ohio has no registration requirement and no sales cap but uses a specific approved product list. Cincinnati is the largest city in Hamilton County. No Hamilton County-specific cottage food ordinance beyond state law found. Cincinnati municipal code likely has home occupation permit requirements.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/departments-a-f/environmental-services>

<https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/departments-a-f/county-regional-planning>

<https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov>

<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Hamilton County                                                                                                                                | Butler County                                                                                                                                  | Warren County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies                                                                                      | No specific state restriction in cottage food law.                                                                                             | Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary                                                                                       |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Home delivery, farmers markets, events, online all permitted within Ohio. No out-of-state sa... | Direct and some indirect sales permitted within Ohio. No sales outside Ohio. Farmers markets, from home, online within Ohio.                   | Sales allowed directly to consumers in Ohio only; online orders with Ohio delivery allowed. No out-of-state sales. Farmers markets and even... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | No registration required. No sales cap. Approved products only (state OAC 901:3-20-04 list). No reduced oxygen packaging. Products cannot b... | Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20) requires no registration or permit. Only state-approved non-TCS foo... | Ohio has an approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) — only listed products allowed. No registration required, no inspection required. Produ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard food storage practices; non-PHF foods only                                                                                            | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods from ODA-approved product list only.                                                                                | Non-TCS shelf-stable approved products only; no acidified foods, no low-acid canned foods                                                      |
| POPULATION                 | 827,671                                                                                                                                        | 388,327                                                                                                                                        | 243,189                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Ohio cottage food law

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| STATUTE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ANNUAL SALES CAP  |
| O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | —                 |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No                |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No                |
| INDIRECT SALES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                   |
| Yes — Labeled cottage food products may be sold to or used by retail food establishments and food service operations licensed under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3717. This enables indirect/wholesale sales within Ohio. Products may not be sold outside the state of Ohio. |                   |

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

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

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

**Questions about Hamilton 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/ohio/hamilton-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/ohio/hamilton-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 Hamilton County, Ohio. 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/ohio/hamilton-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/ohio/hamilton-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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