

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Davidson County

Tennessee · Nashville · FIPS 47037 · Population 709,786 ·
Crosodo Index #1232*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022)

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

Davidson County, Tennessee — 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

Not specified under Food Freedom Act

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Tennessee label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

TENNESSEE: DAVIDSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1232* · FIPS 47037 · Nashville

Davidson County

Population 709,786 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022) ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline: any non-TCS homemade food from private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements at state level. Davidson County/Nashville Metro consolidated government may have local business requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified under Food Freedom Act

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Nashville/Davidson Metro is a consolidated city-county government. Contact Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department and the Metro Codes & Building Safety Department for home occupation requirements. Nashville has a home occupation permit process (Metro Code §17.16.030 or similar zoning provisions).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline: any non-TCS homemade food from private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements at state level. Davidson County/Nashville Metro consolidated government may have local business requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified under Food Freedom Act
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water implied; no specific state requirement
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement under Food Freedom Act
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirements

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Nashville/Davidson Metro is a consolidated city-county government. Contact Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department and the Metro Codes & Building Safety Department for home occupation requirements. Nashville has a home occupation permit process (Metro Code §17.16.030 or similar zoning provisions).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer, online, delivery, events, farmers markets all permitted. County seat blank in input — Nashville is the county seat.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; Nashville Metro Code for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

Davidson County/Nashville Metro follows Tennessee Food Freedom Act state baseline. State broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. Nashville is Tennessee's capital and largest city. No Davidson County-specific cottage food ordinance restricting state law found. Nashville Metro likely has home occupation permit requirements as a business matter (separate from food safety).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health>

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/planning>

<https://www.nashville.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Davidson County	Rutherford County	Williamson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified under Food Freedom Act	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer, online, delivery, events, far...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, online, retail stores all permitted	All sales channels allowed under TN Food Freedom Act: farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online orders, and in-state...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline: any non-TCS homemade food from private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements at state level. ...	Non-TCS foods only; label required; no state permit or inspection; produced at producer's private residence	All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirements	Sanitary storage at residence	Non-TCS foods only; no refrigerated finished products
POPULATION	709,786	343,727	248,897

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — The Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Public Chapter 862, effective July 1, 2022) broadly exempts production and sale of non-TCS homemade food items from all licensing, permitting, inspecting, packaging, and labeling laws. Sales may be direct to consumer in person or remotely. Local government ordinances restricting homemade food sales are preempted. Note: Prior to the 2022 Food Freedom Act, the older domestic kitchen regulations (TDA Chapter 0080-4-11) required a permit, inspection, and food safety certification, and limited sales to 100 units/week; the Food Freedom Act supersedes these requirements for qualifying non-TCS homemade foods.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2021/title-53/chapter-8/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

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

Questions about Davidson 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/tennessee/davidson-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 Davidson County, Tennessee. 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/tennessee/davidson-county-discuss

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