

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Williamson County

Tennessee · Franklin · FIPS 47187 · Population 248,897 ·
Crosodo Index #990*

STATE BASELINE

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

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

Williamson County, Tennessee — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement

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: WILLIAMSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #990* · FIPS 47187 · Franklin

Williamson County

Population 248,897 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022). Williamson County requires home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have city-specific rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Williamson County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. Home occupation permit required. Business must be secondary to residential use. Cities of Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have their own rules that may differ from county rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No license, inspection, or labeling requirements from TDA; DOH may investigate foodborne illness)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022). Williamson County requires home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have city-specific rules.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; no refrigerated finished products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No license, inspection, or labeling requirements from TDA; DOH may investigate foodborne illness
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Williamson County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. Home occupation permit required. Business must be secondary to residential use. Cities of Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have their own rules that may differ from county rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All sales channels allowed under TN Food Freedom Act: farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online orders, and in-state shipping. Direct to consumer within Tennessee.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home occupation permit conditions apply

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; Williamson County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) is one of the most permissive frameworks — no state requirements for non-TCS foods. Williamson County is wealthy suburban Nashville county. CityRuleLookup confirms home occupation permit required at county level. County website (williamsoncounty-tn.gov) is confirmed .gov URL. No county-specific cottage food ordinance text found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed and county .gov URL confirmed but no specific cottage food ordinance retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.williamsoncounty-tn.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/consumers/food-safety/tennessee-food-freedom-act.html>

<https://www.williamsoncounty-tn.gov/165/Licenses-Permits>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/williamson-county-tn>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Williamson 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 Williamson 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/williamson-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 Williamson 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/williamson-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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