

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Austin County

Texas · Bellville · FIPS 48015 · Population 32,546 · Crosodo
Index #2915*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
—	Great	150000	MEDIUM	

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

Austin County, Texas — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

STATE SALES CAP

150000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION

—

PETS

—

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Texas label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

TEXAS: AUSTIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2915* · FIPS 48015 · Bellville

Austin County

Population 32,546 · State baseline: — · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

—

PETS ALLOWED?

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

—

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED —

SEPARATE DEDICATED
KITCHEN —

PET RESTRICTIONS —

WATER SUPPLY —

HANDWASHING —

FOOD STORAGE —

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED —

HOME OCCUPATION
PERMIT —

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE —

Customer-facing rulesON-SITE CUSTOMER
PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

RESEARCH NOTES

No Austin County-specific cottage food or zoning rules found. Texas Local Government Code §231.282 preempts county zoning bans on cottage food operations. Defaulting to Texas state baseline (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.austincounty.gov>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Austin County	Colorado County	Fayette County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	—	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	—	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	—	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	—	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	—	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	—	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	—	All channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a registered cottage fo...	All channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a registered cottage fo...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	—	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	—	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address ...	Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address ...
FOOD STORAGE	—	Non-TCS foods or TCS foods held at proper temperatures required. No refrigeration mandate for shelf-stable products.	Non-TCS foods or TCS foods held at proper temperatures required. No refrigeration mandate for shelf-stable products.
POPULATION	30,406	20,582	24,564

State context — Texas cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

150000

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Limited (see notes) — Sales must be made directly to consumers or to a 'cottage food vendor' (a new category created by SB 541 in 2025 – a person with a contractual relationship who sells on behalf of the cottage food operation to consumers in-state). Cottage food products may not be sold as ingredients to a food service establishment. No retail grocery store or wholesale sales permitted under the pre-2025 framework; SB 541 (2025) adds the cottage food vendor intermediary option. Products must be delivered to consumer or vendor at point of sale or consumer-designated location.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

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

Questions about Austin 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/texas/austin-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 Austin County, Texas. 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/texas/austin-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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