

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dallas County

Texas · Dallas · FIPS 48113 · Population 2,604,053 · Crosodo
Index #989*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

150000

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

150000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

State baseline applies

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: DALLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #989* · FIPS 48113 · Dallas

Dallas County

Population 2,604,053 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Dallas County follows state cottage food law; county zoning applies in unincorporated areas only. The City of Dallas and other incorporated cities within the county have their own zoning codes that may require home occupation permits. Texas Local Government Code Ch. 231 Subchapter M limits county zoning restrictions on CFPOs.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Dallas County has limited unincorporated area. Most residents are in incorporated cities (Dallas, Irving, Garland, etc.) that have their own home occupation permit requirements. Dallas County Planning & Development handles only unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health (state law preemption). No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Dallas County follows state cottage food law; county zoning applies in unincorporated areas only. The City of Dallas and other incorporated cities within the county have their own zoning codes that may require home occupation permits. Texas Local Government Code Ch. 231 Subchapter M limits county zoning restrictions on CFPOs.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

State baseline applies

WATER SUPPLY

State baseline applies

HANDWASHING

State baseline applies

FOOD STORAGE

State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health (state law preemption). No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies by city — Dallas County has limited unincorporated area. Most residents are in incorporated cities (Dallas, Irving, Garland, etc.) that have their own home occupation permit requirements. Dallas County Planning & Development handles only unincorporated areas.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows direct and indirect sales, and online/delivery sales with no county-level restriction. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, CFPO selling TCS foods must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — minimal unincorporated area; Tex. Local Gov't Code §231.181-186 (Subchapter M) limits county zoning of CFPOs

RESEARCH NOTES

Dallas County has very little unincorporated area — the vast majority of residents are in incorporated cities. The dominant city, Dallas, has its own zoning code with home occupation standards. State law preempts county health departments from licensing or inspecting CFPOs. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised the annual cap to \$150,000.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/plandev>

<https://www.dallascounty.org>

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

<https://law.justia.com/codes/texas/local-government-code/title-7/subtitle-b/chapter-231/subchapter-m/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Dallas County	Tarrant County	Collin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows direct and indirect sales, and online/delivery sales with no county-level restriction. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (S...	State law allows direct and indirect sales, online sales with in-person/household delivery, and cottage food vendor intermediaries (SB 541,...	State law allows direct and indirect sales, online sales with in-person/household delivery. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025)...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Dallas County follows state cottage food law; county zoning applies in unincorporated areas only. The City of Dallas and other incorporated...	Tarrant County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority exists for cottage food operations. Incorporated...	Collin County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food operations. Incorporated cities ...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	State baseline applies
POPULATION	2,604,053	2,113,854	1,079,153

State context — Texas cottage food law

Dallas 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 Dallas 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/dallas-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 Dallas 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/dallas-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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