

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Denton County

Texas · Denton · FIPS 48121 · Population 914,870 · Crosodo  
Index #361\*

## STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap raised to \$150,000)

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

150000

## CONFIDENCE

HIGH

## 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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

**150000**

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Conditional**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**No**

PETS

**Not specified; standard sanitation 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: DENTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #361\* · FIPS 48121 · Denton

## Denton County

Population 914,870 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap raised to \$150,000) · **HIGH**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State law preempts local health department regulation of cottage food production. No county/city can require permits, fees, or inspections for cottage food. Must be produced in a private home kitchen. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (inflation-adjusted CPI-U from 2025). Food handler certification required.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Municipal zoning ordinances cannot prevent a cottage food operation in a home. However, city/county zoning rules on traffic, parking, noise, and nuisance still apply. Cities within Denton County (Denton, Lewisville, Flower Mound, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements. Contact the City of Denton Development Services or applicable city planning department. Denton County Planning may apply for unincorporated areas.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Local health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations. DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.)

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — State law preempts local health department regulation of cottage food production. No county/city can require permits, fees, or inspections for cottage food. Must be produced in a private home kitchen. Annual gross sales cap \$150,000 (inflation-adjusted CPI-U from 2025). Food handler certification required.

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

## WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; state baseline applies

## HANDWASHING

Food handler certification from accredited program required under state law

## FOOD STORAGE

Standard food storage practices; no additional county requirements

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Local health departments have NO regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations. DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Municipal zoning ordinances cannot prevent a cottage food operation in a home. However, city/county zoning rules on traffic, parking, noise, and nuisance still apply. Cities within Denton County (Denton, Lewisville, Flower Mound, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements. Contact the City of Denton Development Services or applicable city planning department. Denton County Planning may apply for unincorporated areas.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Broad direct-to-consumer sales permitted: in-person, online (with personal delivery by operator/household member within Texas), farmers markets, roadside stands. Online sales allowed if operator personally delivers. No mail/carrier shipping. Since SB 541 (2025), wholesale to registered cottage food vendors also permitted for non-TCS foods. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Relevant county code**

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; municipal zoning ordinances vary by city

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Texas is one of the strongest state preemption states for cottage food. Local health departments explicitly cannot require permits, fees, or inspections. SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000 and added cottage food vendor pathway. The [texascottagefoodlaw.com](https://www.texascottagefoodlaw.com) resource confirms no municipal zoning ordinance can prevent a CFO. Denton County is heavily suburban with many incorporated municipalities — check applicable city for home occupation permit (separate from food safety regulation). DSHS registration available optionally for label ID number in lieu of home address.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.dentoncounty.gov/health>

<https://www.dentoncounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.dentoncounty.gov>

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/basics/>

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

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

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Denton County                                                                                                                                  | Collin County                                                                                                                                   | Tarrant County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified; standard sanitation applies                                                                                                     | State baseline applies                                                                                                                          | State baseline applies                                                                                                                         |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Broad direct-to-consumer sales permitted: in-person, online (with personal delivery by operator/household member within Texas), farmers mar... | State law allows direct and indirect sales, online sales with in-person/household delivery. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025)... | State law allows direct and indirect sales, online sales with in-person/household delivery, and cottage food vendor intermediaries (SB 541,... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies by city                                                                                                                                  | Varies by city                                                                                                                                 |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies by city                                                                                                                                  | Varies by city                                                                                                                                 |
| RESTRICTIONS               | State law preempts local health department regulation of cottage food production. No county/city can require permits, fees, or inspections ... | Collin County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food operations. Incorporated cities ...  | Tarrant County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority exists for cottage food operations. Incorporated... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard food storage practices; no additional county requirements                                                                             | State baseline applies                                                                                                                          | State baseline applies                                                                                                                         |
| POPULATION                 | 914,870                                                                                                                                        | 1,079,153                                                                                                                                       | 2,113,854                                                                                                                                      |

## State context — Texas cottage food law

Denton 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](https://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 Denton 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/denton-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/denton-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 Denton County, Texas. 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/texas/denton-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/denton-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)