

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Fort Bend County

Texas · Richmond · FIPS 48157 · Population 832,607 ·  
Crosodo Index #464\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## 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

Fort Bend 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: FORT BEND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #464\* · FIPS 48157 · Richmond

## Fort Bend County

Population 832,607 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, fee, or inspection for cottage food. Must be private home kitchen. Food handler certification required.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No zoning ordinance can prevent cottage food operations. Cities within Fort Bend County (Sugar Land, Pearland, Missouri City, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements for business activities. Contact the applicable city's planning department. Fort Bend County rules apply only in unincorporated areas.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No local health department inspection authority for cottage food.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, fee, or inspection for cottage food. Must be private home kitchen. Food handler certification required. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                    |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Not specified; standard sanitation applies                                                                                                                            |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water required                                                                                                                                                |
| HANDWASHING                | Food handler certification from accredited program required                                                                                                           |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard food storage practices                                                                                                                                       |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No local health department inspection authority for cottage food.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — No zoning ordinance can prevent cottage food operations. Cities within Fort Bend County (Sugar Land, Pearland, Missouri City, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements for business activities. Contact the applicable city's planning department. Fort Bend County rules apply only in unincorporated areas. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery within Texas. SB 541 (2025): wholesale to registered cottage food vendors permitted for non-TCS foods. \$150,000 annual cap. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; municipal home occupation ordinances vary

### RESEARCH NOTES

Fort Bend County follows Texas state baseline. Strong preemption prevents local health department regulation. The county is rapidly growing suburban Houston area with multiple incorporated cities. No Fort Bend County-specific cottage food ordinance found.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov>

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

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

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Fort Bend County                                                                                                                               | Harris County                                                                                                                                  | Brazoria County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified; standard sanitation applies                                                                                                     | State baseline applies                                                                                                                         | No specific state restriction in cottage food law.                                                                                             |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery within Texas. SB 541 (2025): wholesale to registered cottage food vendors permit... | State law allows direct sales, indirect sales (to restaurants and retailers), and online/delivery sales. No county-level restriction. Texas... | Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales. Online and mail delivery permitted. SB 541 (2025) added 'cottage food vendor' intermediary path... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | No                                                                                                                                             | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies by city                                                                                                                                 | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, fee, or inspection for cottage food. Must be private home kitchen. Food handler cer... | Harris County has no county-level zoning in its unincorporated areas, meaning no county zoning ordinance applies to home-based cottage food... | Texas cottage food law (Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.) requires no license, permit, or registration. No state inspection. Annual gr... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Standard food storage practices                                                                                                                | State baseline applies                                                                                                                         | Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Acidified and fermented foods allowed.                                                                          |
| POPULATION                 | 832,607                                                                                                                                        | 4,726,177                                                                                                                                      | 374,600                                                                                                                                        |

## State context — Texas cottage food law

Fort Bend 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.

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### 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.

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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).

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### 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/>

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**Questions about Fort Bend 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/fort-bend-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/fort-bend-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 Fort Bend 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/fort-bend-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/fort-bend-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)