

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Travis County

Texas · — · FIPS 48453 · Population 1,289,054 · Crosodo
Index #448*

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

Travis 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

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: TRAVIS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #448* · FIPS 48453 · —

Travis County

Population 1,289,054 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Travis County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food. City of Austin requires no food permit for cottage food operations under state law, but operators should check with Austin's Development Services Department for any zoning ordinance impacts. Unincorporated Travis County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones, with a home occupation permit required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Unincorporated Travis County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses; businesses must be secondary to residential use. Cities within Travis County (Austin, Pflugerville, Lakeway, Manor) have their own rules. Austin specifically states cottage food operators do not need a City of Austin food permit, but should verify zoning and other local ordinances with Austin's Development Services Department.)

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. No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority for CFPOs.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Travis County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food. City of Austin requires no food permit for cottage food operations under state law, but operators should check with Austin's Development Services Department for any zoning ordinance impacts. Unincorporated Travis County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones, with a home occupation permit required.
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. No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority for CFPOs.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Unincorporated Travis County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses; businesses must be secondary to residential use. Cities within Travis County (Austin, Pflugerville, Lakeway, Manor) have their own rules. Austin specifically states cottage food operators do not need a City of Austin food permit, but should verify zoning and other local ordinances with Austin's Development Services Department.
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, online sales with in-person/household delivery. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, TCS food sellers must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — state preemption applies for cottage food; Travis County home occupation permit for unincorporated areas

RESEARCH NOTES

Travis County is dominated by the City of Austin. Austin confirms CFPOs do not need a City food permit under state preemption. However, Austin operators should check zoning and other ordinances with Austin's Development Services Department. Texas SB 541 (2025) significantly expanded the program: cap raised to \$150,000, TCS foods allowed with delivery, cottage food vendor intermediaries created.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov>

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

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/travis-county-tx>

https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/Environmental/RevisedSite/startingfoodbus_2-29-16.pdf

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Travis County	Williamson County	Hays County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply	Not specified in state statute
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows direct and indirect sales, online sales with in-person/household delivery. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025)...	Non-TCS: direct sales at home, farmers markets, online/mail/delivery, third-party platforms, roadside stands within \$150,000 annual cap. TC...	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Travis County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food. City of Austin requires no food...	No TCS foods without registration (SB 541, 2025). Non-TCS foods: no license, permit, or inspection required. Food handler certification req...	No license, registration, or inspection required from health department. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Standard home kitchen storage; products must not be adulterated	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods
POPULATION	1,289,054	617,396	245,351

State context — Texas cottage food law

Travis 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 Travis 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/travis-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 Travis 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/travis-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