

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Jefferson County, Alabama?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-05.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

SALES CAP

—

ALABAMA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Alabama permits PDF](#)[Alabama cottage food law page](#)[Alabama Department of Public Health cottage food program](#)[Statute: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Jefferson County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Jefferson County, Alabama. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Conditional

LOCAL HEALTH

Upon-complaint

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Yes

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

CONTINUE ONLINE

Alabama permits PDF →

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/alabama.pdf>

Alabama cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/alabama>

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/alabama/jefferson-county>

Jefferson County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/alabama/jefferson-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

Alabama registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: No. Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.

Alabama permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/alabama.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/alabama

Alabama Department of Public Health: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Statute: [Ala. Code §22-20-5.1](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Conditional. Jefferson County Department of Health administers cottage food registration (includes proof of food safety training, sample label, product list). County fee applies. For the business zoning aspect: Jefferson County Planning and Zoning for unincorporated areas; City of Birmingham Planning, Engineering & Permits for incorporated areas.

Planning: <https://www.jccal.org/planning>

Health

Upon-complaint. JCDH may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections under state law.

Health: <https://www.jcdh.org>

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-state shipping. No sales cap (2021 amendment removed prior cap).

If you rent a commissary kitchen

A commercial kitchen is a food establishment. Alabama cottage food is not a food-service permit. A commissary, restaurant, or shared kitchen is a food establishment permitted by the county health department. Ask that office for the food-facility application, not the cottage-food form.

Official source: [ADPH food protection](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.jcdh.org>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

SOURCES

<https://www.jcdh.org>

<https://www.jccal.org/planning>

<https://www.jccal.org>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Jefferson County and nearby places

Regulation	Jefferson County	Tuscaloosa County	Shelby County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval	Standard food safety practices apply; no explicit state-level pet restriction in Alabama cottage food statute, but county health inspectors...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer: home, farmers markets, events, online, in-state shipping (permitted since 2021 amendment). No wholesale. No out-of-stat...	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.	Alabama cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales, including home pickup, online sales, and in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment)...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies. Food handler certification (state-approved course, e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course) required before selling. A...	Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must get Tuscaloosa County Health Department approval. Application requir...	Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) permits home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods. Producer must complete a state-approved ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; non-PHF only	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing	Non-TCS, non-perishable storage required. Products must be shelf-stable.
POPULATION	672,265	231,558	223,916

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

Alabama permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/alabama.pdf

Alabama cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/alabama

Jefferson County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/alabama/jefferson-county