

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT	HOME OCCUPATION	BUSINESS LICENSE	SALES CAP
Yes	Yes	Yes	—

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 Lee County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Lee 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

Yes

LOCAL HEALTH

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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/lee-county>

Lee County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/alabama/lee-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

Yes. Opelika (Lee County seat) requires a home occupation permit and business license for home-based businesses (Zoning Ordinance Section 8.14). Requirements: permit from Zoning Administrator before operating, no more than 25% of total floor area (max 500 sq ft), must be incidental to residential use, residents only conduct business, no outdoor storage/display, one small sign (max 2 sq ft, on door/window). Maximum one non-resident employee. County/unincorporated Lee County areas have separate zoning rules.

Health

No. No routine inspections post-approval. Health department may investigate upon complaint.

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.

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.leeco.us>

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.leeco.us>

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

<https://www.opelika-al.gov/DocumentCenter/View/602/Home-Occupation-PDF?bidId=>

<https://www.opelika-al.gov/1154/Home-Occupation-Home-Business-PDF>

Lee County and nearby places

Regulation	Lee County	Russell County	Tallapoosa County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Lee County Health Department inspects the home kitchen; pets likely required away from food prep areas during production.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	In-person sales and in-state online/shipping allowed since 2021. Farmers markets and direct sales from home permitted.	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.	Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Registration and approval from local county health department required. State-approved food safety course required. Non-potentially hazardous...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	175,126	58,849	41,251

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

Lee County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/alabama/lee-county