

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Shelby 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 Shelby County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Shelby 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

Conditional

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/shelby-county>

Shelby County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/alabama/shelby-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. Shelby County zoning governs home-based businesses for unincorporated areas. Individual municipalities (Hoover, Pelham, Helena, Alabaster, etc.) within Shelby County may require separate home occupation permits. Contact Shelby County Planning & Zoning or the relevant municipal zoning office. Shelby County is a large suburban county in the Birmingham metro area.

Health

Conditional. County health department reviews application and may inspect before approving cottage food operations. Alabama does not require routine inspections post-approval, but county health has authority to investigate complaints.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Alabama cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales, including home pickup, online sales, and in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment). No wholesale or retail store sales.

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.shelbyal.com>

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.shelbyal.com>

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

<https://www.shelbyal.com>

Shelby County and nearby places

Regulation	Shelby County	St. Clair County	Talladega County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard food safety practices apply; no explicit state-level pet restriction in Alabama cottage food statute, but county health inspectors...	No specific state restriction; county health approval may review kitchen conditions.	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Alabama cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales, including home pickup, online sales, and in-state shipping (as of 2021 amendment)...	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed. Home pickup, farmers markets, events permitted.	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama state law (§22-20-5.1) permits home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods. Producer must complete a state-approved ...	Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only. Must complete state-approved food safety course and...	Same as all Alabama counties: home kitchen production, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review form s...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-perishable storage required. Products must be shelf-stable.	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only.	No specific statutory requirement.
POPULATION	223,916	91,719	81,105

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

Shelby County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/alabama/shelby-county