

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-06.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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

What you need

Washington 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

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/washington-county>

Washington County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/alabama/washington-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. No state food permit required. However, each municipality (city/town) may require a local business license. The county health department provides a written confirmation of document review, which may be needed for the business license process. Check with local city or county clerk.

Health

No. State law (§22-20-5.1(b)) explicitly states cottage food operations are not required to have a food service permit and county health departments may not regulate production except as provided by the section. Inspection only upon suspected foodborne illness investigation.

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

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 mail. Interstate shipping not permitted under Alabama cottage food law.

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.washingtoncounty.gov>

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.washingtoncounty.gov>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/title-22/title-1/chapter-20/section-22-20-5-1/>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/cottagefoodlawfaqs.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/go/cottagefoodbusiness>

Washington County and nearby places

Regulation	Washington County	Choctaw County	Clarke County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.	Not specified in state statute.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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 ...	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.	Direct to consumer only within Alabama.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...	Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.	Not specifically regulated.	Not specifically regulated.
POPULATION	15,434	12,669	23,058

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

Washington County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/alabama/washington-county