

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Hardee County, Florida?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

HOME OCCUPATION

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

Likely; verify with Hardee County Building & Zoning**Likely; Hardee County local business tax receipt; contact Hardee County Tax Collector**

SALES CAP

\$250,000 / year

FLORIDA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Florida permits PDF](#)[Florida cottage food law page](#)[Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services cottage food program](#)[Statute: Fla. Stat. §500.80](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Hardee County, Florida. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT**No****ANNUAL SALES CAP****\$250,000 / year****HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING****Likely; verify with Hardee County Building & Zoning****LOCAL HEALTH****Upon-complaint only****BUSINESS LICENSE****Likely; Hardee County local business tax receipt; contact Hardee County Tax Collector****PICKUP AT THE HOUSE****True****HOME KITCHEN ONLY**

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

CONTINUE ONLINE[Florida permits PDF →](#)<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/florida.pdf>[Florida cottage food law page →](#)<https://crosodo.com/states/florida>[Permit page for this place →](#)<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/florida/hardee-county>[Hardee County cottage food law page →](#)<https://crosodo.com/states/florida/hardee-county>

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

Where to file

State

Florida registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: Upon-complaint. Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations.

Florida permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/florida.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/florida

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

Statute: [Fla. Stat. §500.80](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Likely; verify with Hardee County Building & Zoning. No Hardee County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small agricultural/citrus county (pop. ~27,000) with county seat Wauchula. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.

Planning: <https://www.hardeecounty.net/building-zoning>

Health

Upon-complaint only. State inspection only upon receipt of complaint per Fla. Stat. §500.80(7); county cannot add inspections

Health: <https://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdHardee/>

Business license

Likely; Hardee County local business tax receipt; contact Hardee County Tax Collector

Pickup / delivery

Direct-to-consumer; online/mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/consignment; max \$250,000 annual gross sales

If you rent a commissary kitchen

DBPR or the local health department licenses food. Florida public food service is typically DBPR Hotels and Restaurants or the county health department, depending on the operation. Cottage food is a separate exemption. Ask which office licenses the kitchen you rent.

Official source: [Florida DBPR Hotels and Restaurants](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdHardee/>

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.doh.state.fl.us/chdHardee/>

<https://www.hardeecounty.net/building-zoning>

<https://www.hardeecounty.net>

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/70108/file/Cottage-Food-Operations.pdf>

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS425>

Hardee County and nearby places

Regulation	Hardee County	DeSoto County	Highlands County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state or county-specific rule for cottage food	No state or county-specific rule for cottage food	No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint only	Upon-complaint only	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Must comply with Hardee County signage ordinances	Must comply with DeSoto County signage ordinances	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer; online/mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/consignm...	Direct-to-consumer; online/mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/consignm...	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (except wholesale) permitted. \$250,000 annu...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Likely; verify with Hardee County Building & Zoning	Likely; verify with DeSoto County Building & Zoning	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Likely; Hardee County local business tax receipt; contact Hardee County Tax Collector	Likely; DeSoto County local business tax receipt; contact DeSoto County Tax Collector	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	Florida uses a broad non-TCS standard — any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety is allowed. Annual sales cap of ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage	Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage	Non-TCS foods only. Foods requiring temperature control for safety (meat, dairy requiring refrigeration, custard-filled pastries, raw sprou...
POPULATION	25,528	34,258	102,339

More pages for this place

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

Florida permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/florida.pdf

Florida cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/florida

Hardee County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/florida/hardee-county