

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Clarke County, Georgia?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

SALES CAP

—

GEORGIA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Georgia permits PDF](#)[Georgia cottage food law page](#)[Georgia Department of Agriculture cottage food program](#)[Statute: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. \(eff. July 2025\); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Clarke County, Georgia. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Yes

LOCAL HEALTH

Upon-complaint

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Conditional

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

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

HOW THIS PLACE WORKS

Georgia no longer sells a state cottage-food license. HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) removed the Georgia Department of Agriculture cottage-food license and fee. What may still apply is city or county occupational tax and zoning. This packet keeps the GDA program page so you can read the current state rules.

Official source: [Georgia Department of Agriculture cottage food](#)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Georgia permits PDF →](#)

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

[Georgia cottage food law page →](#)

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

[Permit page for this place →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/georgia/clarke-county>

[Clarke County cottage food law page →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/states/georgia/clarke-county>

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

Where to file

State

Georgia registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: Upon-complaint. As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.

Georgia permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/georgia.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/georgia

Georgia Department of Agriculture: <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

Statute: [O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. \(eff. July 2025\)](#); prior: [GA R&R 40-7-19](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Yes. Athens-Clarke County requires a Home Occupation Permit (\$20 fee) before a business may operate from a home. The permit is required under Section 9-15-16 of the Athens-Clarke County Unified Development Code. Key restrictions: (1) Direct sales on premises generally not permitted, except for services customarily incidental (mail order and online sales are allowable); (2) No external display of products; (3) No signs on property advertising the home occupation; (4) Maximum one non-resident employee; (5) Business must occupy no more than 25% of habitable floor space; (6) No chemicals or equipment beyond normal domestic residence. Note: Section 9-15-16(L) explicitly states 'No food service regulated by the Department of Health shall be permitted' — cottage food operators using the GDA framework should consult ACC Planning to confirm applicability post-HB 398.

Planning: <https://www.accgov.com/151/Planning-Department>

Health

Upon-complaint. GDA may inspect upon complaint (complaint-based only per HB 398, 2025).

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

ACC Home Occupation rules restrict direct on-premises sales (see above). Mail order and online sales are explicitly allowed. Post-HB 398 (2025), Georgia state law broadly permits all sales channels; however, ACC Home Occupation restrictions on direct customer traffic and on-premises sales may limit home pickup for cottage food operations.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

A commissary is a food-service permit, not occupational tax. Georgia no longer sells a GDA cottage license (HB 398). A rented kitchen is still a food-service establishment permitted by the county health department or the Department of Public Health. Occupational tax is not that permit.

Official source: [Georgia DPH food service](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.clarkecounty.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.accgov.com/151/Planning-Department>

<https://www.clarkecounty.gov>

<http://athensclarkecounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/125>

<https://www.accgov.com/841/Home-Business-Permits>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

<https://www.clarkecounty.gov>

Clarke County and nearby places

Regulation	Clarke County	Barrow County	Jackson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Private water testing (annual coliform test) still required if using a private water source.	Not specified in revised law.	Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	ACC Home Occupation rules restrict direct on-premises sales (see above). Mail order and online sales are explicitly allowed. Post-HB 398 (2...	All channels open under HB 398: direct, indirect, retail, wholesale, online, restaurant, interstate.	Since July 2025, wholesale, retail, online, restaurant sales, and interstate sales all allowed. Broad allowed food list under HB 398.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Since July 1, 2025 (HB 398): no license or fee required, no GDA licensing inspections (complaint-based only), interstate sales allowed, who...	Same as all Georgia counties under HB 398 (eff. July 2025): no license or fee required; complaint-based inspections only; broad non-PHF foo...	Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Since July 2025 (HB 398), no license or fee required. Complaint-based inspections only....
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods. Stored in food-safe containers.	No specific statutory storage requirements.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.
POPULATION	128,864	84,399	77,033

More pages for this place

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

Georgia permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/georgia.pdf

Georgia cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/georgia

Clarke County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/georgia/clarke-county