

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Caroline County, Maryland?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Depends

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

SALES CAP

\$50,000 / year

MARYLAND RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Maryland permits PDF](#)[Maryland cottage food law page](#)[Maryland Department of Health cottage food program](#)[Statute: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Caroline County, Maryland. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Depends

ANNUAL SALES CAP

\$50,000 / year

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Varies

LOCAL HEALTH

Upon-complaint

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

Maryland permits PDF →

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

Maryland cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/maryland/caroline-county>

Caroline County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/maryland/caroline-county>

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

Where to file

State

Maryland registration: Depends. Routine kitchen inspection: Upon-complaint. Sales at retail food stores (indirect) are allowed but require prior submission of labels and documentation of ANSI-accredited food safety course completion to the Maryland Department of Health before any retail sales can commence. The Department must notify the producer in writing that requirements are met before retail sales begin.

Maryland permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/maryland.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/maryland

Maryland Department of Health: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

Statute: [MD COMAR 10.15.03.27](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Varies. Caroline County (Eastern Shore) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal laws per Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1(e). Contact Caroline County planning/zoning for home occupation permit requirements. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state mandate.

Health

Upon-complaint. No routine pre-operational inspection required for standard direct-to-consumer sales. MDH may inspect upon complaint. Retail store sales require MDH plan review and written approval before sales begin.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval. Food safety training recommended but not required for standard sales; required for retail store channel.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

MDH and local health license food facilities. Maryland cottage food is not a food-service facility license. A commissary is a food service facility licensed by the local health department.

Official source: [MDH food protection](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.carolinecounty.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.carolinecounty.gov>

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/pages/cottagefoods.aspx>

<http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/cottagefood/Maryland.pdf>

Caroline County and nearby places

Regulation	Caroline County	Dorchester County	Talbot County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.	Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.	Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval. Food safety training recommended but not required for st...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval. Food safety training recommended but not required for st...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.
POPULATION	33,320	32,557	37,663

More pages for this place

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

Maryland permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/maryland.pdf

Maryland cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/maryland

Caroline County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/maryland/caroline-county