

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Depends

HOME OCCUPATION

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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

What you need

Harford 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

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.

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/harford-county>

Harford County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/maryland/harford-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

Yes. Harford County Zoning Ordinance requires home occupation permit for residential-zone businesses. Business must be secondary to residential use. Bel Air has its own municipal zoning. Maryland Dillon's Rule means specific authority needed for home business regulation.

Health

Upon-complaint. Complaint or foodborne illness investigation

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

Direct and some indirect sales (retail) allowed; retail store sales require food handler certification and MDH ID number. No wholesale via brokers. Maryland only.

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.harfordcountymd.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.harfordcountymd.gov>

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

<https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

Harford County and nearby places

Regulation	Harford County	Cecil County	Kent County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but standard sanitation applies.	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	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and some indirect sales (retail) allowed; retail store sales require food handler certification and MDH ID number. No wholesale via ...	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Retail store sales require free optional registration and food handler cert. Online s...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Optional free MDH ID number (required only if se...	Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods (non-refrigerated), non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters...	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; extensive prohibited list including pickles, salsas, acidified foods, dairy, meat	Non-PHF foods only. Prohibited: meringue/cheesecake/cream/custard pies, baked goods with refrigerated cream cheese or buttercream icing, lo...	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.
POPULATION	261,059	103,876	19,289

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

Harford County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/maryland/harford-county