

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Howard 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

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

What you need

Howard 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

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/howard-county>

Howard County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/maryland/howard-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. Howard County Planning and Zoning requires a Home Occupation Application (\$25 fee) for home-based businesses operated from a residence. Application submitted online at howardcountymd.gov/planning-zoning/home-occupation-application

Health

Upon-complaint. MDH may investigate on complaint; initial inspection may be required for certain sales channels

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events, online (Maryland only); wholesale to grocers requires MDH compliance letter; no out-of-state internet sales

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.howardcountymd.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.howardcountymd.gov>

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

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/planning-zoning/home-occupation-application>

https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Updated_CF_Guidelines_2025.pdf

Howard County and nearby places

Regulation	Howard County	Frederick County	Carroll County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard sanitation applies; no specific state pet rule	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events, online (Maryland only); wholesale to grocers requires MDH compliance letter; no out-of...	Direct sales to end consumers; indirect sales (retail stores) allowed with MDH ID number and food handler certification. No wholesale via b...	Direct sales at home (limited customer visits per zoning), online within Maryland, and limited indirect sales to retail stores with ANSI fo...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS non-perishable foods only; \$50,000 annual gross sales cap; labeling required; MDH compliance letter required for wholesale/grocery ...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optiona...	Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented food...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply	Shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated products allowed.
POPULATION	332,011	273,829	173,225

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

Howard County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/maryland/howard-county