

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Davidson County, Tennessee?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

SALES CAP

—

TENNESSEE RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Tennessee permits PDF](#)[Tennessee cottage food law page](#)[Tennessee Department of Agriculture cottage food program](#)[Statute: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 \(Food Freedom Act\)](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

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

What you need

Davidson County, Tennessee. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Conditional

LOCAL HEALTH

Upon-complaint

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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

[Tennessee permits PDF →](#)

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

[Tennessee cottage food law page →](#)

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

[Permit page for this place →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/tennessee/davidson-county>

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

<https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee/davidson-county>

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

Where to file

State

Tennessee registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: No. The Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Public Chapter 862, effective July 1, 2022) broadly exempts production and sale of non-TCS homemade food items from all licensing, permitting, inspecting, packaging, and labeling laws. Sales may be direct to consumer in person or remotely. Local government ordinances restricting homemade food sales are preempted. Note: Prior to the 2022 Food Freedom Act, the older domestic kitchen regulations (TDA Chapter 0080-4-11) required a permit, inspection, and food safety certification, and limited sales to 100 units/week; the Food Freedom Act supersedes these requirements for qualifying non-TCS homemade foods.

Tennessee permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/tennessee.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/tennessee

Tennessee Department of Agriculture: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

Statute: [Tenn. Code §53-1-125 \(Food Freedom Act\)](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Conditional. Nashville/Davidson Metro is a consolidated city-county government. Contact Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department and the Metro Codes & Building Safety Department for home occupation requirements. Nashville has a home occupation permit process (Metro Code §17.16.030 or similar zoning provisions).

Planning: <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/planning>

Health

Upon-complaint. State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat only.

Health: <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health>

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer, online, delivery, events, farmers markets all permitted. County seat blank in input — Nashville is the county seat.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

A commissary is a food-service permit. Food Freedom is not. Tennessee Food Freedom covers qualifying homemade non-TCS food. A commissary is a food service establishment permitted by the local health department.

Official source: [TN food service](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health/environmental-health/food-and-public-facilities/food-protection-services>

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.nashville.gov/departments/health>

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/planning>

<https://www.nashville.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

Davidson County and nearby places

Regulation	Davidson County	Rutherford County	Williamson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified under Food Freedom Act	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer, online, delivery, events, far...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, online, retail stores all permitted	All sales channels allowed under TN Food Freedom Act: farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online orders, and in-state...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline: any non-TCS homemade food from private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements at state level. ...	Non-TCS foods only; label required; no state permit or inspection; produced at producer's private residence	All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirements	Sanitary storage at residence	Non-TCS foods only; no refrigerated finished products
POPULATION	709,786	343,727	248,897

More pages for this place

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

Tennessee permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/tennessee.pdf

Tennessee cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/tennessee

Davidson County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/tennessee/davidson-county