

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

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

What you need

DeKalb 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

Varies

LOCAL HEALTH

No

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

[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/dekalb-county>

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

<https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee/dekalb-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

Varies. DeKalb County zoning regulations may require a home occupation permit for commercial activities at a residence. Operators should check with DeKalb County offices in Smithville.

Health

No. DOH may investigate only in connection with a foodborne illness investigation; no routine or complaint-only inspection authority for cottage food.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.

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.dekalbcounty.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.dekalbcounty.gov>

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

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/112/pub/pc0862.pdf>

DeKalb County and nearby places

Regulation	DeKalb County	Smith County	Cannon County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	—	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	—	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.	—	No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	—	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	—	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	—	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F...	—	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	—	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	—	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence...	—	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.	—	No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.
POPULATION	20,209	20,034	14,481

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

DeKalb County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/tennessee/dekalb-county