

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Hamilton 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 Hamilton County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Hamilton 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

No

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/hamilton-county>

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

<https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee/hamilton-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. Hamilton County requires a county business license from County Clerk for businesses grossing over \$3,000 annually. Standard business license for gross receipts over \$10,000. Contact Hamilton County Clerk for business license. If opening food establishment, health department contact required, but cottage food is exempt. Chattanooga and other incorporated cities may have separate zoning home occupation requirements.

Health

No. No inspection required or permitted under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

All sales channels allowed within Tennessee: direct-to-consumer, farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping. No interstate sales.

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.hamiltontn.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.hamiltontn.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/consumers/food-safety/tennessee-food-freedom-act.html>

<https://www.hamiltontn.gov/StartingBusiness.aspx>

Hamilton County and nearby places

Regulation	Hamilton County	Bradley County	Rhea County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	—
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	—
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state restriction in the Food Freedom Act.	—
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	—
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	—
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	—
DELIVERY / PICKUP	All sales channels allowed within Tennessee: direct-to-consumer, farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-s...	All sales channels permitted for non-TCS foods: direct-to-consumer, online, wholesale, retail, delivery. No sales cap.	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	—
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	—
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) allows any non-TCS homemade food from private residence without p...	Tennessee's Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling req...	—
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products only. No foods requiring time/temperature control for safety.	Non-TCS foods only. TCS foods (requiring time/temperature control for safety) are not covered and require standard food establishment licen...	—
POPULATION	367,193	108,859	33,031

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

Hamilton County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/tennessee/hamilton-county