

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT	HOME OCCUPATION	BUSINESS LICENSE	SALES CAP
No	Yes	Varies	—

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

What you need

Knox 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

Yes

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/knox-county>

Knox County cottage food law page →

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

Yes. Knox County Home Occupation Permit required per Knox County Zoning Section 4.90. Application through Knox County Department of Code Administration (return to Knox County Code Administration, Knoxville TN 37902). Requirements: (A) Only household members may be engaged; (B) max 25% floor area; (C) no change to exterior appearance, no outdoor storage except vehicles; (D) no accessory building; (E) sales only of products produced on premises; (F) no excessive traffic or parking; (G) no detectable off-premises noise/vibration/glare/odors; (H) no electrical interference off premises. Permitted home occupations include: 'H. Cooking and preserving.' Signs: only allowed in RA, RB, PR zones at 2 sq ft maximum nameplate.

Health

No. No inspection required under Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022)

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct sales to consumers within Tennessee: home, farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping. No annual sales cap. No out-of-state 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.knoxcounty.org>

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.knoxcounty.org>

https://www.knoxcounty.org/codes/pdfs/construction_info/home_occupation.pdf

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

Knox County and nearby places

Regulation	Knox County	Blount County	Sevier County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction in Tennessee Food Freedom Act	Not prohibited by state statute.	No state restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers within Tennessee: home, farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping. ...	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, events, online, retail stores, and restaurants. No geographic restrictions within Tennessee. Th...	Direct and indirect sales allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Farmers markets, online sales, home pickup, and events all permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS foods only (do not require temperature control for safety). No registration required. No inspection required. Food may be sold dire...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales. No licensing, permit, inspection, or labe...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, registration, or i...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods	Non-TCS foods only; stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS homemade foods only.
POPULATION	481,406	135,951	98,455

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

Knox County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/tennessee/knox-county