

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

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

What you need

Rutherford 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/rutherford-county>

Rutherford County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee/rutherford-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. Tennessee does not preempt local zoning. Rutherford County and City of Murfreesboro may have home occupation permit requirements; operator should check with Rutherford County Planning or city zoning

Health

No. No routine inspection; complaint possible

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales allowed; farmers markets, events, online, retail stores all permitted

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://rutherfordcountyttn.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://rutherfordcountyttn.gov>

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

Rutherford County and nearby places

Regulation	Rutherford County	Williamson County	Wilson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies	Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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...	Sales allowed anywhere — direct, online, retail, wholesale, restaurant sales all permitted under the Food Freedom Act for non-TCS foods.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	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...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (eff. July 1, 2022) broadly allows all non-TCS homemade foods from a private residence. No license, permit, insp...
FOOD STORAGE	Sanitary storage at residence	Non-TCS foods only; no refrigerated finished products	Non-TCS foods only; proper storage practices recommended.
POPULATION	343,727	248,897	149,096

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

Rutherford County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/tennessee/rutherford-county