

## COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

# Can I sell from my kitchen in Shelby 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

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

## What you need

Shelby 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

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)

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

[Tennessee cottage food law page →](https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee)

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

[Permit page for this place →](https://crosodo.com/what-permits/tennessee/shelby-county)

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

[Shelby County cottage food law page →](https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee/shelby-county)

<https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee/shelby-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](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/tennessee.pdf)

State law page: [crosodo.com/states/tennessee](https://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. Memphis and Shelby County have separate governments (consolidated to some extent). Check with the Shelby County Land Use Control Board and City of Memphis Division of Planning and Development for home occupation permit requirements. State law does not preempt local zoning for home-based businesses generally.

### Health

Upon-complaint. State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat. No routine inspections.

### Business license

Varies

### Pickup / delivery

Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer at home, farmers markets, events, online, delivery all permitted. No wholesale or retail restrictions stated (2022 law broadly deregulated).

**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.shelbycountyttn.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.

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**SOURCES**

<https://www.shelbycountyttn.gov>

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

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## Shelby County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Shelby County                                                                                                                                  | Tipton County                                                                                                                                  | Fayette County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified in state Food Freedom Act                                                                                                        | No specific pet restriction in state law.                                                                                                      | No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.                                                        |
| 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 at home, farmers markets, even... | Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted under TN Food Freedom Act. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allo... | Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | State baseline applies: any non-TCS homemade food produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling req... | Tennessee Food Freedom Act (effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, ... | 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 requirements under Food Freedom Act                                                                                          | Non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.                                                                                                    | No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.                                                |
| POPULATION                 | 926,440                                                                                                                                        | 61,116                                                                                                                                         | 42,228                                                                                                                                         |

## 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](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/tennessee.pdf)

Tennessee cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/tennessee](https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee)

Shelby County cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/tennessee/shelby-county](https://crosodo.com/states/tennessee/shelby-county)