

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Hardin County, Texas?

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

\$150,000 / year

TEXAS RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Texas permits PDF](#)[Texas cottage food law page](#)[Texas Department of State Health Services cottage food program](#)[Statute: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Hardin County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Hardin County, Texas. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

\$150,000 / year

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.

HOW THIS PLACE WORKS

Texas does not let counties charge a cottage-food permit. State law says a local government may not require a permit, license, or fee for a cottage food production operation. The leftover local steps are usually city zoning, a DBA (assumed name) at the county clerk, and sales tax if your products are taxable. This packet shows the state DSHS page for the food rules.

Official source: [Texas DSHS cottage food production operations](#)

CONTINUE ONLINE

Texas permits PDF →

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

Texas cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/texas/hardin-county>

Hardin County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/texas/hardin-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

Texas registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: No. Sales must be made directly to consumers or to a 'cottage food vendor' (a new category created by SB 541 in 2025 – a person with a contractual relationship who sells on behalf of the cottage food operation to consumers in-state). Cottage food products may not be sold as ingredients to a food service establishment. No retail grocery store or wholesale sales permitted under the pre-2025 framework; SB 541 (2025) adds the cottage food vendor intermediary option. Products must be delivered to consumer or vendor at point of sale or consumer-designated location.

Texas permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/texas.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/texas

Texas Department of State Health Services: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

Statute: [Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Varies. Hardin County is largely unincorporated rural area. Texas state law preempts local health regulation of cottage food operations. A local home occupation permit may be required under general county zoning for home-based business activity. Contact Hardin County government in Kountze.

Health

No. Only to prevent immediate and serious threat to human life or health (DSHS or local health authority). No routine inspections.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct and some indirect sales allowed. Online orders with in-person delivery or pickup permitted. The 2025 SB 541 amendment created the 'cottage food vendor' intermediary allowing third-party sales.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

DSHS does not let locals permit cottage food. A commissary is different. Texas cottage food is exempt from food-establishment rules. A commissary, restaurant, or shared kitchen is a retail food establishment permitted by the local health department or DSHS.

Official source: [Texas DSHS retail food establishments](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.hardincounty.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.hardincounty.gov>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

Hardin County and nearby places

Regulation	Hardin County	Polk County	Jasper County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific TX state or Hardin County restriction on pets; standard food safety practices apply.	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and some indirect sales allowed. Online orders with in-person delivery or pickup permitted. The 2025 SB 541 amendment created the 'c...	Sales allowed directly to consumers in Texas, online, at farmers markets, through cottage food vendor intermediaries (SB 541, 2025), and by...	Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands, and through nonprofit organizations (SB 5...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	All non-TCS foods allowed including most baked goods, candy, jams, pickles, dried herbs, vinegar, acidified foods, fermented vegetable prod...	Must produce in home kitchen. All non-TCS foods allowed. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No meat/poultry/seafood, ice/ice ...	Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. Annual gross income cap of \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or i...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-TCS and not require refrigeration (with exceptions). Proper labeling required.	Products must be non-TCS; proper storage implied.	Non-TCS products must be shelf-stable. TCS foods allowed under SB 541 with registration. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.
POPULATION	56,576	50,536	35,604

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

Texas permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/texas.pdf

Texas cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/texas

Hardin County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/texas/hardin-county