

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

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

What you need

Harris 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

No

LOCAL HEALTH

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by city

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/harris-county>

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

<https://crosodo.com/states/texas/harris-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

No. Harris County has no county-level zoning in unincorporated areas; no home occupation permit required from the county. Cities within Harris County (including Houston) have their own zoning and may require a home occupation permit.

Health

No. Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health (state law preemption). No routine or complaint-driven inspection authority for CFPO.

Health: <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov>

Business license

Varies by city

Pickup / delivery

State law allows direct sales, indirect sales (to restaurants and retailers), and online/delivery sales. No county-level restriction. Texas Local Government Code Ch. 231 Subchapter M prohibits counties from imposing zoning restrictions that would effectively ban CFPOs in residential areas.

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://publichealth.harriscountytexas.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://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov>

<https://www.harriscountytexas.gov>

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

<https://law.justia.com/codes/texas/local-government-code/title-7/subtitle-b/chapter-231/subchapter-m/>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/harris-county-tx>

Harris County and nearby places

Regulation	Harris County	Fort Bend County	Montgomery County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows direct sales, indirect sales (to restaurants and retailers), and online/delivery sales. No county-level restriction. Texas...	Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery within Texas. SB 541 (2025): wholesale to registered cottage food vendors permit...	Non-TCS foods: direct sales at home, farmers markets, online, mail/delivery, roadside stands. Third-party online platforms (Goldbelly, Amaz...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	No	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Harris County has no county-level zoning in its unincorporated areas, meaning no county zoning ordinance applies to home-based cottage food...	Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, fee, or inspection for cottage food. Must be private home kitchen. Food handler cer...	No TCS foods without registration (as of SB 541, 2025). Non-TCS foods: no license, permit, or inspection required. Food handler certificati...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Standard food storage practices	Standard home kitchen storage; products must not be adulterated
POPULATION	4,726,177	832,607	629,989

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

Harris County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/texas/harris-county