

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

South Carolina

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under S.C. Code §44-1-145.

STATUTE	TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED	LAST VERIFIED
S.C. Code §44-1-145	Good	B-	46	2026-05-05

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above. **Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision.** Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

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Executive summary

This report covers the South Carolina cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 46 South Carolina counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

none

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

no

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

no

KITCHEN INSPECTION

no

DIRECT SALES ONLY

no

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

yes — Since the 2022 amendment, home-based food operations may sell to retail stores and grocery stores in addition to direct-to-consumer sales including online and mail order. Retail stores that sell home-based food products must post clearly visible signage indicating the products are not subject to commercial food regulations.

RESEARCH NOTES

Verbatim excerpt is from the official SC statehouse website (scstatehouse.gov). SC Code §44-1-145 was originally enacted in 2012 and significantly amended in 2022 (Act No. 208, S.1006) to allow sales to retail stores and grocery stores, add online/mail order sales, remove the old inspection exemption application process, and allow use of a department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. The section does not impose a sales cap or require registration for home-based food operations with net earnings above \$1,500 (operations below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely). Note: the state reorganization in 2023 (Act No. 60) transferred food safety oversight from DHEC to the Department of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024.

South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 44 – Health, Chapter 1 – Department of Public Health, Section 44-1-145 (Home-Based Food Production Operations)

CITATION

S.C. Code §44-1-145

ENACTED

2012

LAST AMENDED

2022

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

Allowed foods

Non-potentially hazardous foods produced in the kitchen of a primary domestic residence are allowed, including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, and other shelf-stable foods not requiring refrigeration. The 2022 amendment expanded allowed distribution to retail stores and grocery stores.

Prohibited foods

Potentially hazardous foods (those requiring refrigeration for safety) are prohibited unless a product assessment is conducted pursuant to the 2009 FDA Food Code; foods with pH above 5.6 (non-acid foods) or pH above 4.6 (acidified foods) are presumed potentially hazardous.

Labeling requirements

Labels must include: name and address of the home-based food production operation (or department-issued ID number if operator prefers not to disclose address); name of product; ingredients in descending order of predominance by weight; and the conspicuous all-caps disclaimer 'PROCESSED AND PREPARED BY A HOME-BASED FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATION THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS.'

Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

Statute excerpt — verbatim

(A) As used in this section: (1) "Home-based food production operation" means a person who produces food items in the kitchen of their primary domestic residence for direct sale to consumers, including online and by mail order, or to retail stores, including grocery stores. The person must not produce foods that are potentially hazardous. Foods in item (2) with a pH value greater than 5.6 and foods in item (3) with a pH value greater than 4.6 are considered potentially hazardous unless a product assessment is conducted pursuant to the 2009 Federal Drug Administration Food Code. (D) All food items packaged at the operation for sale must be properly labeled. The label must comply with federal laws and regulations and must include: (1) the name and address of the home-based food production operation. If a home-based food production operator does not want to include his address on the label, then the department shall provide an identification number to the operator, upon the operator's request, that can be used on the label instead; (2) the name of the product being sold; (3) the ingredients used to make the product in descending order of predominance by weight; and (4) a conspicuous statement printed in all capital letters and in a color that provides a clear contrast to the background that reads: "PROCESSED AND PREPARED BY A HOME-BASED FOOD PRODUCTION OPERATION THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS." (E) Home-based food operations only may sell, or offer to sell, food items directly to a person, including online and by mail order, or to retail stores, including grocery stores. (F) A home-based food production operation is not a retail food establishment and is not subject to regulation by the department pursuant to Regulation 61.25. (G) The provisions of this section do not apply to an operation with net earnings of less than fifteen hundred dollars annually.

Source: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

Official sources

Statute <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

State dept page <https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

Extension service <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/food/cottage-food.html>

Forrager.com <https://forrager.com/law/south-carolina/>

State dept of agriculture / health: **South Carolina Department of Agriculture**

County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 46 South Carolina counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 132 · FIPS 45045 · Greenville

Greenville County

Population 528,251 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only. No license, permit, or inspection required by the state. No food handler training required. All animals/pets must be excluded from food production area. No domestic activities in kitchen while processing. Water and sewage disposal must meet state standards.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	All animals, including pets, must be kept out of the food production area at all times
WATER SUPPLY	Water and sewage disposal systems must meet state standards
HANDWASHING	Implied by food safety practices; no specific separate state requirement
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods; no domestic activities in kitchen while processing food

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No inspection required under SC cottage food law
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Greenville County Home Occupation Application Guidelines (from official greenvillecounty.org PDF) explicitly lists 'Home-based food production operations (as covered under Section 44-1-143 of the State of South Carolina Code of Laws, commonly known as the Cottage Food Law)' as a permitted home occupation. Permit obtained via eTRAKiT portal. Conditions: only one non-family/non-resident employee; conducted only within principal dwelling; max 25% floor area; no on-site retail sale of goods manufactured off-premises; no merchandise visible from street; no outdoor storage; no alteration of residential character; one non-illuminated nameplate max 2 sq ft mounted on principal building wall; off-street parking per Table 12.1. Total permit fees: \$100. Contact: 336-641-3334 (SC code says 44-1-143 but county bulletin references 44-1-143; the operative current statute is 44-1-145 as amended 2022).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales at home, farmers markets, events; also permitted wholesale to restaurants and retail stores. Online sales and delivery permitted. No annual sales cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One non-family/non-resident employee maximum

Relevant county code

Greenville County Zoning Ordinance Section 6:2(13) (Home Occupations). State: S.C. Code §44-1-145.

RESEARCH NOTES

Greenville County Home Occupation Application Guidelines PDF retrieved directly from [greenvillecounty.org](https://www.greenvillecounty.org). Explicitly names SC Cottage Food Law (§44-1-143) as a permitted home occupation category. County Zoning Ordinance Section 6:2(13) governs. One non-family employee allowed, 25% floor area limit, one 2 sq ft sign, \$100 permit fee, eTRAKiT application. SC state: no state license or inspection required; pets banned from production area; domestic activities banned in kitchen during processing. Business license required for tax purposes. Confidence high: official county document directly retrieved naming cottage food operations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.greenvillecounty.org>

https://www.greenvillecounty.org/buildingsafety/forms/home_occupation_application_guidelines.pdf

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/south-carolina/>

RANK 169 · FIPS 45079 · Columbia

Richland County

Population 416,161 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) allows non-PHF foods produced in primary domestic residence without registration, permit, or inspection. Allowed: baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, and other shelf-stable non-PHF foods. 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order sales. No sales cap. Label must indicate produced in unlicensed home kitchen. Potentially hazardous foods (requiring refrigeration for safety, pH above 5.6 or acidified above 4.6) prohibited unless product assessment conducted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction beyond standard food safety.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection required. SC Department of Agriculture may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Richland County has home occupation provisions in its zoning ordinance. Operators in unincorporated Richland County should verify with county planning. Columbia (incorporated) has its own zoning rules. South Carolina cottage food law does not include explicit local preemption; local home occupation compliance required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (retail stores, grocery stores) permitted since 2022. Online/mail order allowed. Products cannot be resold wholesale to distributors without commercial license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local home occupation rules apply.

Relevant county code

S.C. Code §44-1-145 (state cottage food); Richland County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

South Carolina cottage food statute (S.C. Code §44-1-145) confirmed from state baseline. 2022 amendment significantly expanded allowed sales channels. No registration or permit required. Richland County (including Columbia) follows state baseline; no county-specific overrides found. Richland County food safety oversight transferred to SC Department of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (from DHEC). Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Richland County local zoning rules not specifically researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.richlandcountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

RANK 171 · FIPS 45019 · Charleston

Charleston County

Population 409,840 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) allows non-PHF foods produced in primary domestic residence without registration, permit, or inspection. 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store/grocery store sales and online/mail order. No sales cap. Products must be labeled as produced in unlicensed home kitchen. PHF (potentially hazardous) foods prohibited. City of Charleston requires a Home Occupation permit for home-based businesses per Charleston Zoning Ordinance Sec. 54-211.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction beyond standard food safety.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection. SC Department of Agriculture may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — City of Charleston requires a Home Occupation permit (application at 2 George St, First Floor) per Zoning Ordinance Sec. 54-211. Home occupation must be incidental to residential use; no retail businesses or activities injurious to health/welfare; no external signage incompatible with residential character; limits on floor area and operations. The completed application constitutes zoning approval. For unincorporated Charleston County areas, county-level home occupation rules apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (retail stores, grocery stores) permitted since 2022. Online/mail order allowed. Home occupation rules may limit customer traffic to home.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	City of Charleston home occupation rules permit at most one non-resident employee.

Relevant county code

S.C. Code §44-1-145 (state cottage food); City of Charleston Zoning Ordinance Sec. 54-211 (home occupations).

RESEARCH NOTES

City of Charleston Home Occupation Application form confirmed from official civic plus (Charleston city) document. Charleston Zoning Ordinance Sec. 54-211 details confirmed. SC state cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) confirmed from state baseline. Home Occupation permit required — completed application constitutes zoning approval. No routine food inspection. SC Dept. of Agriculture (not DHEC since July 2024) administers cottage food program. Confidence high: both state law and city permit requirement confirmed from .gov/civic sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.charlestoncounty.gov/health>

<https://www.charlestoncounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org>

<https://sc-charleston2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/36488>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/charleston-sc>

RANK 201 · FIPS 45051 · Conway

Horry County

Population 356,578 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-143; no registration required, no sales cap, home kitchen allowed, no inspection · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No domestic activities in kitchen during production; pets/animals excluded from production area; water and sewage must meet state standards; no refrigerated or TCS foods
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SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	All animals including pets must be excluded from production area during food production
WATER SUPPLY	Water and sewage disposal systems must meet state standards
HANDWASHING	Handwashing required per standard food safety practices
FOOD STORAGE	Stored in sanitary conditions separate from household items

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No state inspection required; complaint-based follow-up possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No state food permit required. Local zoning/home occupation permit may be required at county or municipal level; SCDA recommends contacting SC Small Business Development Center for local permitting questions
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer including online orders and mail delivery within SC; also to retail stores and grocery stores for resale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level; sole operator typical

Relevant county code

Not identified; county code not publicly indexed

RESEARCH NOTES

SC state law is permissive (no permit, no inspection, no sales cap). County-level zoning and home occupation rules not found in public index; SCDA guidance explicitly defers local permitting questions to SC SBDC. Horry County has no publicly searchable municode.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.horrycountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

https://agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2025_digital.pdf

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/south-carolina/>

RANK 215 · FIPS 45083 · Spartanburg

Spartanburg County

Population 330,119 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-143; no registration required, no sales cap, home kitchen allowed, no inspection · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No domestic activities in kitchen during production; pets excluded from production area; water/sewage must meet state standards; non-TCS foods only
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	All animals including pets must be excluded from production area during food production
WATER SUPPLY	Water and sewage disposal systems must meet state standards
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No state inspection required
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No state food permit required. Local zoning/home occupation permit may be required. Operator should contact Spartanburg County Planning or SC Small Business Development Center
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer including online and mail within SC; also to retail stores for resale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Same SC state baseline as Horry County (rank 201). No Spartanburg County-specific overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.spartanburgcounty.org>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

https://agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2025_digital.pdf

RANK 236 · FIPS 45063 · Lexington

Lexington County

Population 295,934 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-143; no registration required, no sales cap, home kitchen allowed, no inspection · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No domestic activities in kitchen during production; pets excluded; water/sewage must meet state standards; non-TCS foods only
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	All animals including pets must be excluded from production area during food production
WATER SUPPLY	Water and sewage disposal systems must meet state standards
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No state inspection required
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No state food permit required. Local zoning/home occupation permit may be required at county or municipal level. Operator should contact Lexington County Planning Department
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer including online and mail within SC; also to retail stores for resale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Same SC state baseline. Lexington County is suburban Columbia, SC. No county-specific overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lex-co.com>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

https://agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2025_digital.pdf

RANK 244 · FIPS 45091 · York

York County

Population 282,987 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-143; no registration required, no sales cap, home kitchen allowed, no inspection · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No domestic activities in kitchen during production; pets excluded from production area; water/sewage must meet state standards; non-TCS foods only
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	All animals including pets excluded from production area during food production
WATER SUPPLY	Water and sewage disposal systems must meet state standards

HANDWASHING	Standard food safety handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No state inspection required
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No state food permit required. York County Planning Department (yorkcounty.gov/planning) may have home occupation zoning requirements; operator should verify with York County Planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer including online and mail within SC; also to retail stores for resale
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

York County is Charlotte, NC metro suburb (Rock Hill area). Planning URL identified from batch input data. Same SC state baseline. No county-specific cottage food overlay found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.yorkcounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.yorkcounty.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

https://agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2025_digital.pdf

RANK 294 · FIPS 45015 · Moncks Corner

Berkeley County

Population 231,419 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods from primary domestic residence kitchen. No registration required (no fee or ID number needed unless earning under \$1,500 — entirely exempt). 2022 amendment expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order sales. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; pH >5.6 presumed potentially hazardous; pH >4.6 acidified foods presumed PHF unless product assessment conducted

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; SCDA may investigate complaints (transferred from DHEC July 1, 2024)
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Berkeley County is listed as 'pattern' with no county URLs. Berkeley County municipalities may require home occupation permits. Check with Berkeley County Planning Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed: at home, online, mail order (within SC), retail stores and grocery stores. No consignment or wholesale via distributors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

S.C. Code §44-1-145; Berkeley County zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Berkeley County SC is listed as 'pattern' with no county URLs. South Carolina cottage food law (§44-1-145) is quite permissive — no registration required, retail store sales allowed since 2022. Oversight transferred to SCDA from DHEC in July 2024. No Berkeley County-specific ordinance found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed but no specific Berkeley County .gov source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 330 · FIPS 45007 · Anderson

Anderson County

Population 204,592 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina cottage food law (§44-1-145, significantly amended 2022 by Act No. 208) allows non-PHF foods produced in a primary domestic residence. No registration or inspection required. Retail store/grocery store sales now permitted as of 2022. Online sales and mail-order allowed. No sales cap (operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are fully exempt from the section; above \$1,500, cottage food provisions apply). Anderson County is in the upstate region near Clemson.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restriction in South Carolina cottage food statute.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement documented for South Carolina cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices; no specific statutory handwashing requirement for cottage food.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF (non-potentially hazardous) foods only. Standard GMP storage. Foods with pH above 5.6 or acidified foods with pH above 4.6 are presumed potentially hazardous.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection required under South Carolina cottage food law. SC Department of Agriculture may investigate upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Anderson County and municipalities (Anderson City, Williamston, Belton, Pendleton) may have home occupation zoning requirements. South Carolina does not have a statewide preemption of local home occupation zoning for cottage food. Contact Anderson County Planning & Development or relevant municipal planning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	South Carolina cottage food law (2022 amendment) allows sales at home, events, online, mail-order, and through retail/grocery stores. No wholesale prohibition for sales to retailers. Home pickup and delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in South Carolina cottage food statute. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

S.C. Code §44-1-145; Anderson County zoning ordinances (contact Planning & Development)

RESEARCH NOTES

South Carolina state baseline applies. Anderson County (county seat: Anderson) is in the upstate South Carolina region near Clemson University. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) significantly expanded SC's cottage food law, including retail store sales and online/mail-order. The SC Department of Agriculture took over food safety oversight from DHEC effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60, 2023). No county-specific overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 352 · FIPS 45013 · Beaufort

Beaufort County

Population 189,071 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be primary domestic residence kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water from municipal or approved source.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored in clean, dry conditions; no refrigeration required for permitted non-PHF foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine kitchen inspection. State Department of Agriculture may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Beaufort County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses as an accessory use in residential zones (county ordinances). Separate Minor and Major home occupation categories exist; Major requires special exception approval. A business license is also required. County zoning standards: no external signage beyond minor nameplate, no on-site employees beyond household members for Minor; limited customer visits. City of Beaufort has its own home occupation application (Section 3.3.2.D, fee \$30) distinct from county rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales allowed at home (limited customer visits), online, farmers markets, and retail stores (since 2022 amendment). Mail order and online with delivery permitted.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Household members only for Minor home occupation; Major may allow limited non-resident employees with special exception.

Relevant county code

Beaufort County Zoning Ordinance, Home Occupation provisions; S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap. Beaufort County requires home occupation permit and business license per CityRuleLookup verified information. County prohibits external business signage for home occupations. City of Beaufort has its own zoning ordinance (Section 3.3.2.D) requiring conditional use permit for home occupations. SC Cottage Food Law cited as §44-1-142 in some local sources (may reflect prior version numbering). Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Department of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://beaufortcountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/beaufort-county-sc>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 387 · FIPS 45003 · Aiken

Aiken County

Population 169,865 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Must be primary domestic residence kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 exempt entirely. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — SC Department of Agriculture may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Aiken County may require home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. County URLs were blank in input. Aiken city has separate municipal zoning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail stores, grocery stores since 2022 amendment), online, mail order with delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

S.C. Code §44-1-145; no specific Aiken County code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Aiken County (near Augusta, GA border) has no verified county-specific cottage food rules beyond SC state baseline. County URLs were blank in input. SC cottage food law allows retail store sales since 2022 amendment — above-average for the region.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 406 · FIPS 45035 · Saint George

Dorchester County

Population 162,139 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence. No registration, permit, or inspection required. 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Must label 'Homemade food, not inspected by DHEC' (now SC Dept of Agriculture).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Dorchester County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential districts.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under 2022 expansion. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Dorchester County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. SC §44-1-145 as amended 2022 is permissive. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept of Agriculture as of July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). No Dorchester County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 467 · FIPS 45041 · Florence

Florence County

Population 137,015 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded distribution to retail stores and grocery stores, allows online/mail order sales, and permits use of SC Department of Agriculture ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No registration or inspection required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per good food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) products only; stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — SC Department of Agriculture may inspect upon complaint (formerly DHEC; food safety oversight transferred to SCDA effective July 1, 2024 per Act No. 60, 2023).
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HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Florence County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. City of Florence has its own home occupation rules. No specific county-level cottage food permit override identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and roadside stands, as well as indirect sales to retail stores and online/mail order within SC. Wholesale to retail stores permitted since 2022 amendment.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified at state level.

Relevant county code

Not identified for Florence County; state law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (SC) confirmed: S.C. Code §44-1-145, 2022 amendment expanded to retail stores, no inspection required. State food safety oversight transferred to SCDA (from DHEC) July 1, 2024. No county-specific URLs in input. Florence County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 485 · FIPS 45077 · Pickens

Pickens County

Population 131,106 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only. The 2022 amendment expanded distribution to retail stores/grocery stores, allows online/mail order, and permits use of SCDA ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No registration or inspection required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen sanitation required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per good food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS products only; stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — SC Department of Agriculture may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Pickens County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas. City of Pickens and Easley (larger city in county) have separate ordinances. No specific county-level cottage food override identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales including retail stores and online/mail order within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

Not identified; state law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (SC) confirmed. Pickens County is in Upstate SC near Clemson University. No county-specific URLs in input. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 573 · FIPS 45085 · Sumter

Sumter County

Population 105,199 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows non-potentially hazardous foods from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, and other shelf-stable foods. The 2022 amendment expanded distribution to retail stores and grocery stores. No sales cap for operations with net earnings above \$1,500 (below \$1,500 is fully exempt). No registration, no inspection required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Foods with pH above 5.6 (non-acid) or pH above 4.6 (acidified) presumed potentially hazardous and prohibited unless product assessment confirms otherwise.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspections required. SC Dept. of Agriculture took over oversight from DHEC effective July 1, 2024.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Sumter County and the City of Sumter may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Sumter County cottage food ordinance identified.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales permitted. Sales to retail stores and grocery stores allowed (2022 amendment). Online and mail order sales permitted. All sales within South Carolina.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Sumter County code section identified. State law governs: S.C. Code §44-1-145.

RESEARCH NOTES

Sumter County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. South Carolina's 2022 amendment expanded to allow retail/grocery store sales and online/mail order. SC Dept. of Agriculture took over from DHEC in 2024. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 617 · FIPS 45057 · Lancaster

Lancaster County

Population 97,611 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina cottage food law (§44-1-145, 2022 amendment): no registration, no inspection, no sales cap. Allowed: non-PHF foods from primary domestic residence including baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, and other shelf-stable foods. 2022 amendment added retail store/grocery store sales, online/mail order sales, and removed prior inspection application process. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500/year are exempt from the section entirely.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific restriction under South Carolina cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only; pH or water activity assessment may be needed for borderline products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No inspection authority; the 2022 amendment removed the prior inspection exemption application process.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — Lancaster County may have local home occupation zoning requirements. No Lancaster County-specific cottage food permit identified. Operators should check with Lancaster County Planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed. Retail stores, grocery stores, online, mail order, farmers markets, home pickup all permitted as of 2022 amendment. No out-of-state restriction stated.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified in South Carolina cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No Lancaster County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Lancaster County-specific cottage food rules found. South Carolina's 2022 amendment (Act No. 208, S.1006) significantly expanded the law to allow retail/grocery store sales and online/mail order. The SC Department of Agriculture took over food safety oversight from DHEC effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60, 2023).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 676 · FIPS 45075 · Orangeburg

Orangeburg County

Population 84,159 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina: non-PHF foods from primary domestic residence kitchen are allowed without registration or inspection. 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded sales to retail stores, online/mail order, and added optional SC Dept. of Agriculture ID number for labels. No sales cap. No routine inspection; complaint-based only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory requirement.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED no — Complaint-based only. No routine inspection or registration required.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies — Orangeburg County and the City of Orangeburg may have home occupation permits. No specific Orangeburg County cottage food ordinance identified. Producers should check with Orangeburg County Planning or City of Orangeburg.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales permitted: from home, at farmers markets, at events, to retail stores, online with in-state or out-of-state delivery. 2022 amendment removed geographic restrictions.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

No Orangeburg County-specific cottage food code identified. S.C. Code §44-1-145 governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

Orangeburg County follows South Carolina's cottage food law. SC underwent a significant expansion in 2022 allowing retail store and online sales. No county-specific overrides identified. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from official SC statehouse source; county-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 713 · FIPS 45073 · Walhalla

Oconee County

Population 78,775 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods produced in the kitchen of a primary domestic residence. 2022 amendment expanded sales to retail stores and grocery stores. Online and mail order sales allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required at state level.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially-hazardous shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — SCDA (formerly DHEC) may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No state-level permit required for cottage food operations. Oconee County may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Oconee County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted. Since 2022 amendment (Act No. 208), retail stores, grocery stores, online, and mail order sales allowed. Producers may use a SCDA-issued ID number instead of home address on labels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No Oconee County-specific cottage food code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

South Carolina cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) was significantly expanded in 2022 to allow retail/grocery store sales and online/mail order. Oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Department of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). No Oconee County-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 771 · FIPS 45047 · Greenwood

Greenwood County

Population 69,309 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No inspection required. Direct and indirect sales allowed. Non-TCS foods plus baked goods and home-canned goods (2022 amendment expanded scope). Certain home-canned goods require online training once every 5 years.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices implied
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; complaint-based possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Greenwood County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Greenwood has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted in-state
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

South Carolina Good-tier state. 2022 amendment expanded allowed products beyond baked goods only. Home-canned goods producers must complete online training once every 5 years. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

RANK 786 · FIPS 45059 · Laurens

Laurens County

Population 67,456 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No sales cap. No food handler cert required. No registration required. No inspection required. Direct and indirect sales allowed. Non-TCS foods, baked goods, and home-canned goods (2022 amendment). Home-canned goods producers must complete online training once every 5 years.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices implied
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; complaint-based possible
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county govt URL provided. Laurens County unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Laurens has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; delivery by producer permitted in-state
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

South Carolina Good-tier state. Laurens County is a rural Upstate SC county. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

RANK 808 · FIPS 45055 · Camden

Kershaw County

Population 65,779 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 (Home-based Food Production Law, as amended 2022) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Allowed for non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in operator's primary domestic residence. No license, permit, or mandatory application required for food production. Voluntary registration number available from SCDA to use on labels instead of home address.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition on pets; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no specific additional county requirement identified
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only; proper storage required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — No routine inspection; complaint-based only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — SC SCDA guidance notes producers should contact local zoning/county for home occupation and business licensing requirements. Kershaw County Planning & Zoning administers land use at (803) 425-1500. A county business license may be required for taxation purposes.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; retail stores, grocery stores, online sales, and mail order all permitted since 2022 amendment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under state law

Relevant county code

Kershaw County Zoning and Land Development Regulations — contact Planning & Zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

SC 2024 guidance document (SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2024) confirmed: no license or permit required for food production; county business license may be required for taxation; local zoning applies. Kershaw County Planning & Zoning page found. SC Code §44-1-145 amended 2022 to allow retail stores, online sales, mail order. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.kershaw.sc.gov/doing-business/permits-and-licenses>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

https://agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2024_digital.pdf

<https://www.kershaw.sc.gov/doing-business/permits-and-licenses>

RANK 835 · FIPS 45043 · Georgetown

Georgetown County

Population 63,594 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 (Home-based Food Production Law, as amended 2022) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — No license, permit, or mandatory application required for food production from primary domestic residence. Non-PHF foods only. Voluntary registration number available from SCDA. Local zoning may apply.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Georgetown County is a coastal South Carolina county near Myrtle Beach region. SC SCDA guidance notes producers should contact local zoning for home occupation and business licensing. Contact Georgetown County Planning at (843) 545-3163.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE yes

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales allowed; retail stores, grocery stores, online, and mail order all permitted since 2022 amendment.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific limit under state law

Relevant county code

Georgetown County zoning ordinance — contact Planning

RESEARCH NOTES

Georgetown County is a coastal SC county in the Grand Strand/Waccamaw Neck area. SC state law is clear: no license required for food production from home. Business license may be required for taxation. No county-specific cottage food overrides identified. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

https://agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2024_digital.pdf

RANK 839 · FIPS 45031 · Darlington

Darlington County

Population 63,025 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 (Home-based Food Production Law, as amended 2022) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — No license, permit, or mandatory application required. Non-PHF foods only. Voluntary registration number available from SCDA. Local zoning may apply.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific state prohibition; good manufacturing practice applies

WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Darlington County is in the Pee Dee region of SC. SC guidance notes producers contact local zoning. Contact Darlington County Planning at (843) 398-4000.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed; retail stores, grocery stores, online, and mail order all permitted since 2022 amendment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit under state law

Relevant county code

Contact Darlington County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Darlington County is a rural Pee Dee region SC county (home of the Darlington Raceway/NASCAR). SC state law allows cottage food from home without license or permit. No county-specific overrides identified. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

https://agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2024_digital.pdf

RANK 911 • FIPS 45021 • Gaffney

Cherokee County

Population 56,200 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 (amended 2022, Act No. 208) · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods from primary domestic residence kitchen. No registration, permit, or inspection required. No sales cap. Retail store sales allowed since 2022. Online/mail order sales allowed. Oversight transferred to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific SC state or Cherokee County restriction found.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	No formal state requirement; standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous and shelf-stable. Cannot have pH above 5.6 (non-acid foods) or above 4.6 (acidified foods) without a product assessment.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — SCDA may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No specific Cherokee County cottage food zoning ordinance identified. County may have general home occupation provisions. Contact Cherokee County government in Gaffney.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales (retail stores) permitted since 2022. Online and mail order allowed. Department-issued ID number may be used in lieu of home address on labels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in SC statute.

Relevant county code

S.C. Code §44-1-145; no Cherokee County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Cherokee County is a rural upstate SC county. The 2022 SC Act No. 208 was a major expansion allowing retail store sales, online/mail order, and removing the inspection exemption application process. Oversight moved from DHEC to SCDA in July 2024. No county-specific cottage food overrides found. Statute explicitly does not require registration for operations with net earnings above \$1,500.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45001 · Abbeville

Abbeville County

Population 24,527 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Abbeville County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Abbeville County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural upstate SC county. SC §44-1-145 governs. Food safety oversight transferred to SC Dept of Agriculture July 1, 2024. No county-specific cottage food overlay found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.abbevillecountysc.com>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45005 · Allendale

Allendale County

Population 8,876 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Allendale County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Allendale County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). One of South Carolina's poorest and least populated counties. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.allendalecounty.com>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45009 · Bamberg

Bamberg County

Population 13,311 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Bamberg County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Bamberg County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC Lowcountry county. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bambergcountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45011 · Barnwell

Barnwell County

Population 20,866 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Barnwell County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Barnwell County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.barnwellcounty.sc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45017 · Saint Matthews

Calhoun County

Population 14,553 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Calhoun County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Calhoun County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Midlands region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.calhounco.org>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45023 · Chester

Chester County

Population 32,328 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Chester County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Chester County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural upstate SC county. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chestercounty.org><https://www.chestercounty.org><https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/><https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45025 · Chesterfield

Chesterfield County

Population 46,734 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · MEDIUM

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Chesterfield County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Chesterfield County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county bordering North Carolina. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chesterfieldcounty.org>

<https://www.chesterfieldcounty.org>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45027 · Manning

Clarendon County

Population 33,745 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Clarendon County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Clarendon County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Pee Dee region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.clarendoncountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45029 · Walterboro

Colleton County

Population 38,892 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Colleton County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Colleton County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC Lowcountry county. Walterboro is county seat. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.colletoncounty.org><https://www.colletoncounty.org><https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/><https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45033 · Dillon

Dillon County

Population 30,479 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · MEDIUM

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Dillon County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Dillon County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Pee Dee region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dilloncounty.org>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45037 · Edgefield

Edgefield County

Population 27,460 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Edgefield County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Edgefield County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the CSRA region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.edgefieldcounty.sc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45039 · Winnsboro

Fairfield County

Population 22,712 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Fairfield County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Fairfield County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Midlands region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fairfieldsc.com><https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/><https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45049 · Hampton

Hampton County

Population 19,222 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Hampton County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Hampton County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC Lowcountry county. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hamptoncountysc.org>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45053 · Ridgeland

Jasper County

Population 30,073 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Jasper County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Jasper County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC Lowcountry county near Georgia border. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jaspercountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45061 · Bishopville

Lee County

Population 16,828 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Lee County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Lee County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Pee Dee/Midlands region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.leecountysc.us><https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/><https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45065 · McCormick

McCormick County

Population 9,463 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. McCormick County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

McCormick County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). One of SC's smallest counties. Rural upstate SC county. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mccormickcountysc.org>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45067 · Marion

Marion County

Population 30,657 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Marion County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Marion County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Pee Dee region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.marioncountysc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45069 · Bennettsville

Marlboro County

Population 26,118 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Marlboro County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Marlboro County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county bordering North Carolina. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.marlbocounty.sc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45071 · Newberry

Newberry County

Population 38,440 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Newberry County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Newberry County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Midlands region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.newberrycounty.net>

<https://www.newberrycounty.net>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45081 · Saluda

Saluda County

Population 20,473 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Saluda County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Saluda County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Midlands region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.saludacounty.sc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45087 · Union

Union County

Population 27,316 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Union County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Union County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural upstate SC county. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.unioncountysc.com>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 45089 · Kingstree

Williamsburg County

Population 30,184 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — South Carolina allows cottage food from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence (S.C. Code §44-1-145). No registration, permit, or inspection required. The 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order, and added option to use department-issued ID number in lieu of home address on labels. No sales cap. Operations with net earnings below \$1,500 are exempt from the section entirely. Must label products 'Homemade food, not inspected by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.'
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state pet restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under SC cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS) foods only. Products must be stored safely.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Complaint-based only. SC Dept. of Agriculture (formerly DHEC, transferred July 1, 2024) may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies — No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Williamsburg County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity in residential zones. Operators should check with county planning or zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer, online, mail-order, and indirect retail sales (grocery stores, retail stores) allowed under the 2022 amendment. No geographic restriction within SC.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; must be primary domestic residence.

Relevant county code

Williamsburg County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions), S.C. Code §44-1-145

RESEARCH NOTES

State cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) provides baseline with no sales cap, no registration required, and no inspection required. Food safety oversight transferred from DHEC to SC Dept. of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (Act No. 60). Rural SC county in the Pee Dee region. SC §44-1-145 governs. No county-specific cottage food restrictions found. County-specific zoning rules not researched at ordinance level. Confidence medium: state rules well-documented; local home occupation rules not confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.williamsburgcounty.sc.gov>

<https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/>

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php>

Generated 2026-05-06 from data/research/state_cottage_food_statutes.csv and data/research/county_cottage_food_zoning.csv. This report is for research purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Cottage food law is in active flux — re-verify all citations and rules against state and county .gov sources before relying on them for regulatory decisions.