

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Blount County

Alabama · Oneonta · FIPS 01009 · Population 59,077 ·
Crosodo Index #1950*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	Good	—	MEDIUM	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.

ALABAMA: BLOUNT COUNTY

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Blount County

Population 59,077 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department before selling. No sales cap. Direct sales only (no wholesale/retail). Online and in-state shipping allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Blount County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course with free videos and \$25 exam) and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection specified; county health department approves initial application.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from local county health department before selling. No sales cap. Direct sales only (no wholesale/retail). Online and in-state shipping allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection specified; county health department approves initial application.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Blount County Health Department approval is required before selling. Operators must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course with free videos and \$25 exam) and submit proof of training, a sample label, and product list to the county health department. Fees vary by county.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale to retail stores or restaurants.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Blount County Health Department procedures (county health department approval required); no specific cottage food county ordinance identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama requires county health department approval, making the county level significant in AL. The 2021 amendment (SB 160/Act 2021-461) removed the prior sales cap and added online/in-state shipping. Operators must get county health dept approval — Blount County Health Dept. should be contacted directly. Food safety course is mandatory. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing by an approved authority. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

<https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/blount-county-discuss>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Blount County's rules sit on top of Alabama's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Indirect sales to grocery stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; producers may use an agent for delivery but cannot sell through retailers.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Alabama cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/code-of-alabama>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/cottage-food-law.html>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/alabama/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Blount County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/alabama/blount-county-discuss>
