

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Clarke County

Alabama · Grove Hill · FIPS 01025 · Population 22,142 ·
Crosodo Index #1640*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law)

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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: CLARKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1640* · FIPS 01025 · Grove Hill

Clarke County

Population 22,142 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (AL cottage food law) · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Clarke County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No state requirement. Clarke County is rural in southwest Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b).)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-approved food safety course. Must submit cottage food review form to Clarke County Health Department. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Not specified in state statute. |
| WATER SUPPLY | Not specified in state statute. |
| HANDWASHING | Not specified in state statute; covered by food safety course. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Not specifically regulated. |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No — Cottage food operations not subject to routine inspection per §22-20-5.1(b). |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — No state requirement. Clarke County is rural in southwest Alabama. No county-level home occupation ordinance found. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Yes |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct to consumer only within Alabama. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Not regulated at state level for cottage food. |

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

RESEARCH NOTES

Clarke County is a rural county in southwest Alabama. State law governs cottage food. No county-level overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/clarke/>

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

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/clarke/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Clarke County | Choctaw County | Marengo County |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Not specified in state statute. | Not specified in state statute. | No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply. |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No | No | No |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Direct to consumer only within Alabama. | Direct to consumer only within Alabama. | Direct sales to consumers permitted in person, by phone, online, or via mail within Alabama. Delivery may be in person, by an agent, or by ... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies | Varies | Conditional |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies | Varies | Yes |
| RESTRICTIONS | Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-... | Must produce non-potentially hazardous foods only (no meat/poultry/fish). Sales direct to consumer only within Alabama. Must complete ADPH-... | Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Not specifically regulated. | Not specifically regulated. | Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety. |
| POPULATION | 23,058 | 12,669 | 19,180 |

State context — Alabama cottage food law

Clarke 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 Clarke County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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