

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Colbert County

Alabama · Tuscumbia · FIPS 01033 · Population 57,270 ·
Crosodo Index #2289*

STATE BASELINE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (amended 2021, Act 2021-461)

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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: COLBERT COUNTY

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Colbert County

Population 57,270 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (amended 2021, Act 2021-461) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. Must register/get approval from local county health department (Colbert County Health Department). Products limited to non-potentially hazardous foods. Direct sales only (no wholesale to stores). Online sales and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state or county rule found; standard good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Colbert County Health Department approval required before selling (application and fees vary; typically includes proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list). No specific county zoning ordinance cottage food override identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (ADPH or county health department may investigate upon consumer complaint or foodborne illness report.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Producer must complete a state-approved food safety course before selling. Must register/get approval from local county health department (Colbert County Health Department). Products limited to non-potentially hazardous foods. Direct sales only (no wholesale to stores). Online sales and in-state shipping permitted since 2021 amendment.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state or county rule found; standard good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement; primary residence kitchen assumed.
HANDWASHING	Covered under food safety training requirement; standard sanitation practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable products only. Proper labeling and storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — ADPH or county health department may investigate upon consumer complaint or foodborne illness report.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Colbert County Health Department approval required before selling (application and fees vary; typically includes proof of food safety training, sample label, and product list). No specific county zoning ordinance cottage food override identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer. In-person sales at home, farmers markets, events. Online and in-state shipping allowed since 2021.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in AL statute.

Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Colbert County Health Department application process

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food rules found for Colbert County. State baseline applies: food safety course required (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7 or ACES course), then approval from Colbert County Health Department. No sales cap since 2021 amendment. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing by approved authority. Freeze-dried foods require water activity testing. No county govt or health URLs available in input; state URL may be inactive (404 reported).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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