

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Houston County

Alabama · Dothan · FIPS 01069 · Population 107,040 ·  
Crosodo Index #1722\*

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: HOUSTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1722\* · FIPS 01069 · Dothan

## Houston County

Population 107,040 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No sales cap. Applications and fees vary by county health department.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Dothan and Houston County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Houston County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Houston County Health Department must approve applications before selling. The county health department reviews the application, proof of training, sample label, and product list. Fees and approval process vary by county.)

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-potentially hazardous foods only: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No sales cap. Applications and fees vary by county health department.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required per food safety course training.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohibited. Acidified foods (pickles) require pH testing. Freeze-dried foods require water-activity testing.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Houston County Health Department must approve applications before selling. The county health department reviews the application, proof of training, sample label, and product list. Fees and approval process vary by county.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Dothan and Houston County may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Houston County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state county health department approval requirement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). Out-of-state shipping prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

No specific Houston County code section identified. State law governs: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1. Houston County Health Department administers local approval.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Houston County was flagged as 'verified-large' in the input. The county has no URLs provided. Houston County is the Wiregrass Region hub (Dothan). Alabama requires county health department approval before selling — Houston County Health Department administers this. Food safety course (Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course) required. No county-specific deviations from state law found. Confidence medium.

#### 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/houston-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Houston County	Dale County	Geneva County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation practices apply.	Not explicitly restricted by state law; standard sanitation applies.	No specific state restriction; standard sanitation best practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale or indirect sales. Online and in-state shipping permitted (2021). Out-of-state shipping prohibi...	Sales allowed directly to consumers: in-person, phone, online, or by mail within Alabama. No consignment; no sale in licensed food establis...	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	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Alabama requires state-approved food safety course completion before selling and approval from the local county health department. Non-pote...	Must use primary residence kitchen with residential appliances. Must complete state-approved food safety course. Products sold only directl...	Must complete a state-approved food safety course (e.g., ACES course, \$25) before selling. Must file paperwork (food safety course certific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Meat, poultry, fish, all perishable/temperature-controlled foods, low-acid canned goods, juices prohi...	Products must remain non-potentially hazardous.	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; must be shelf-stable and not require time/temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	107,040	49,455	26,647

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

Houston 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.

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### STATUTE

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1

### ANNUAL SALES CAP

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### 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.

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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