

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Madison County

Alabama · Huntsville · FIPS 01089 · Population 389,781 ·  
Crosodo Index #2785\*

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: MADISON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2785\* · FIPS 01089 · Huntsville

# Madison County

Population 389,781 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Conditional (Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local county health department (Madison County Health Department). No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales and online/in-state shipping (added 2021). No wholesale.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Madison County municipalities (Huntsville, Madison, Athens area) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Huntsville is a rapidly growing city and has active planning/zoning enforcement.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Madison County Health Department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Conditional — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course; (2) approval from local county health department (Madison County Health Department). No sales cap (removed by 2021 amendment). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs/vegetables, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales and online/in-state shipping (added 2021). No wholesale.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction; county health department may check during approval.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state requirement; county health dept may review.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required per county health department food safety standards.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Madison County Health Department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Madison County municipalities (Huntsville, Madison, Athens area) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Huntsville is a rapidly growing city and has active planning/zoning enforcement.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Online sales and in-state shipping permitted (2021 amendment). No wholesale or retail establishment sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local zoning home occupation rules vary.

**Relevant county code**

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 (state cottage food); Madison County Health Department approval process.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) confirmed from state baseline. Madison County (Huntsville) is a tech/research hub with significant growth. County health department approval required. Food safety course required first. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Madison County-specific fee/requirement details not directly verified.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.madisoncountyal.gov>

<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/madison-county-discuss>

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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

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