

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Marshall County

Alabama · Guntersville · FIPS 01095 · Population 97,923 ·
Crosodo Index #1764*

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: MARSHALL COUNTY

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Marshall County

Population 97,923 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Apply to local county health department (Marshall County Health Department). Applications/fees vary by county; typically require proof of training, sample label, and product list. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Marshall County Health Department (Guntersville) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list. Fees vary.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Alabama ADPH / Marshall County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Alabama cottage food law (§22-20-5.1, 2021 amendment): no sales cap, direct sales only (no wholesale). Must complete state-approved food safety course before selling. Apply to local county health department (Marshall County Health Department). Applications/fees vary by county; typically require proof of training, sample label, and product list. Allowed: baked goods, jams/jellies, candy, dried herbs, roasted coffee, dried baking mixes, fermented/preserved vegetables or fruit with approved acidity. Prohibited: meat, poultry, fish, perishable foods, low-acid canned goods, juices.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction, but county health approval process may review kitchen conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement at state level; county health department may review.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of state-approved food safety course completion.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Alabama ADPH / Marshall County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Alabama requires county health department approval before selling cottage food. Marshall County Health Department (Guntersville) issues approval. Operators must submit application, proof of food safety course completion, sample label, and product list. Fees vary.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. In-state online sales and shipping allowed per 2021 amendment. Home pickup, farmers markets, and events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated in Alabama cottage food law.

Relevant county code

No Marshall County-specific cottage food code identified beyond state-required county health approval.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Marshall County-specific cottage food overrides found. Alabama requires county health department approval as a precondition to sales — this is notable as a local county-level gate. Marshall County Health Dept contact: (256) 571-7764. The ADPH cottage food URL returned 404 during research; Forrager and the Alabama Legislature website were used as backup sources. Acidified foods require pH testing by approved authority before sale.

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/marshall-county-discuss>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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