

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Mobile County

Alabama · Mobile · FIPS 01097 · Population 413,878 ·
Crosodo Index #2782*

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: MOBILE COUNTY

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Mobile County

Population 413,878 · 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 (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course); (2) approval from local 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, all perishable/TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales only; no wholesale/indirect sales.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Mobile County municipalities (Mobile city, Prichard, Saraland, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Alabama cottage food law approval goes through county health department, not county planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (County health department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection by Mobile County Health Department.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) requires: (1) completion of state-approved food safety course (e.g., Learn2Serve ~\$7, or ACES course); (2) approval from local 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, all perishable/TCS foods, low-acid canned goods, juices. Acidified foods require pH testing. Direct sales only; no wholesale/indirect sales.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; county health department inspection may check for food safety compliance including pet presence.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement; county health dept may review.
HANDWASHING	Required per county health department food safety standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, non-refrigerated finished products. Acidified foods require pH testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — County health department approval required before selling; application review and possible home inspection by Mobile County Health Department.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Mobile County municipalities (Mobile city, Prichard, Saraland, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local zoning authority. Alabama cottage food law approval goes through county health department, not county planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	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 (added by 2021 amendment). No wholesale or sales to retail establishments.
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); Mobile County Health Department approval process.

RESEARCH NOTES

Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1) confirmed from state baseline. 2021 amendment (SB 160/Act 2021-461) removed sales cap, expanded foods, added online sales. Food safety course required (county health dept reviews proof). Mobile County Health Department administers county-level approval. Alabama is notable for requiring county health dept approval — application and fees vary by county. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Mobile County-specific fees/requirements not directly verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mobilecountyal.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/mobile-county-discuss>

State context — Alabama cottage food law

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

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