

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Montgomery County

Alabama · Montgomery · FIPS 01101 · Population 228,132 ·  
Crosodo Index #1824\*

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: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1824\* · FIPS 01101 · Montgomery

# Montgomery County

Population 228,132 · State baseline: Ala. Code §22-20-5.1 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap (removed 2021 amendment). Online and in-state shipping allowed. Direct sales only. Note: county seat field in input was blank — county seat is Montgomery.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Montgomery County and City of Montgomery may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Montgomery County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Initial Montgomery County Health Department approval required)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application requires proof of training, sample label, product list. No sales cap (removed 2021 amendment). Online and in-state shipping allowed. Direct sales only. Note: county seat field in input was blank — county seat is Montgomery.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water supply; private well testing per county health dept
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	State-approved food safety course required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Initial Montgomery County Health Department approval required
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Montgomery County and City of Montgomery may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Montgomery County health dept approval required as part of cottage food registration.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified in state statute

### Relevant county code

Ala. Code §22-20-5.1; Montgomery County Health Department registration

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Montgomery County AL follows Alabama state baseline. Alabama state capital county. No sales cap since 2021. No specific Montgomery County Health Department cottage food page found. Note: input data had blank county\_seat field — county seat is Montgomery. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mc-ala.org>

<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/montgomery-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Montgomery County	Elmore County	Autauga County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	<b>Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be clean for health dept approval</b>	No specific state-level pet exclusion requirement in Alabama cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	<b>Direct sales only; online and in-state shipping allowed. No wholesale.</b>	Direct sales within Alabama only: in-person, by phone, or online with in-state delivery.	Direct sales only. Home pickup, farmers markets, events, online sales, and in-state shipping permitted. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	<b>Must complete state-approved food safety course before operating. Must obtain Montgomery County Health Department approval. Application req...</b>	Same as all Alabama counties: production from home kitchen, non-PHF foods only, approved food safety course required, cottage food review f...	Alabama cottage food law (Ala. Code §22-20-5.1, amended 2021) requires completion of a state-approved food safety course and approval from ...
FOOD STORAGE	<b>Non-TCS shelf-stable; acidified foods require pH testing; freeze-dried require water-activity testing</b>	No specific statutory requirements.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	228,132	87,694	58,761

## State context — Alabama cottage food law

Montgomery 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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<b>STATUTE</b> Ala. Code §22-20-5.1	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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 Montgomery County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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