

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Maricopa County

Arizona · — · FIPS 04013 · Population 4,430,871 · Crosodo  
Index #631\*

## STATE BASELINE

A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932

## STATE TIER

Great

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## CONFIDENCE

HIGH

## LAST VERIFIED

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.

ARIZONA: MARICOPA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #631\* · FIPS 04013 · —

# Maricopa County

Population 4,430,871 · State baseline: A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932 · **HIGH**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Maricopa County defers entirely to the Arizona Department of Health Services for cottage food registration and oversight. County zoning applies in unincorporated areas: a Home Occupation Permit (HOP) is not required if the business has no non-resident employees, no client visits, no signage, and operations confined to 250 sq ft inside the dwelling. A HOP is required for more intensive home-based food operations (MCZO Arts. 501.2.10 & 601.2.8).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

State baseline applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Unincorporated Maricopa County requires a Home Occupation Permit under MCZO if the home business has customer visits, non-resident employees, or signage. Low-impact operations (no visitors, no signage, operations under 250 sq ft) are exempt. A Cottage Industry Special Use Permit may be required for higher-intensity operations. Cities within Maricopa County (Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa, etc.) have their own zoning codes.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection for cottage food; county environmental services may be contacted for questions, but ADHS administers the program statewide.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Maricopa County defers entirely to the Arizona Department of Health Services for cottage food registration and oversight. County zoning applies in unincorporated areas: a Home Occupation Permit (HOP) is not required if the business has no non-resident employees, no client visits, no signage, and operations confined to 250 sq ft inside the dwelling. A HOP is required for more intensive home-based food operations (MCZO Arts. 501.2.10 & 601.2.8).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	State baseline applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	State baseline applies
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	State baseline applies
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	State baseline applies

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection for cottage food; county environmental services may be contacted for questions, but ADHS administers the program statewide.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Unincorporated Maricopa County requires a Home Occupation Permit under MCZO if the home business has customer visits, non-resident employees, or signage. Low-impact operations (no visitors, no signage, operations under 250 sq ft) are exempt. A Cottage Industry Special Use Permit may be required for higher-intensity operations. Cities within Maricopa County (Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa, etc.) have their own zoning codes.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies by city

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows direct and indirect sales. County notes that local codes address where food can and cannot be sold; cottage food law does not affect county/municipal zoning codes. Home cannot be used as a commissary for mobile food units (A.R.S. §36-1761).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies; MCZO in unincorporated areas limits to no non-resident employees without a HOP

### Relevant county code

Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance Arts. 501.2.10, 601.2.8, 1301.1.18; DD-2017-07 (minimum HOP threshold directive)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Maricopa County explicitly defers to ADHS for cottage food registration. The county FAQ (May 2024) confirms that provisions in the new cottage food law (HB 2042, 2024) do not affect existing county/municipal building codes, zoning codes, or ordinances. Operators should check their specific city's zoning code. Home kitchens cannot exceed 1,000 sq ft under A.R.S. §36-931.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.maricopa.gov/2858/Planning-Development>

<https://www.maricopa.gov>

[https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/93212/Cottage-food-FAQ\\_5-1-24](https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/93212/Cottage-food-FAQ_5-1-24)

<https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/32372/Home-Occupation---Minimum-Threshold---DD-2017-07-PDF>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/arizona/maricopa-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Maricopa County	Pima County	Pinal County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	No specific restriction in state cottage food law beyond standard food safety practices.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows direct and indirect sales. County notes that local codes address where food can and cannot be sold; cottage food law does ...	State law allows direct and indirect sales. Local codes may address where food can and cannot be sold. ARS §36-931 provisions do not affect...	Arizona state preemption strong; cottage food may be sold online, in stores, via third-party delivery. However, Pinal County home occupatio...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies by city	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Maricopa County defers entirely to the Arizona Department of Health Services for cottage food registration and oversight. County zoning app...	Pima County follows ADHS for cottage food registration. In unincorporated areas, home occupations are allowed as accessory use with a Home ...	Arizona cottage food law (A.R.S. §36-931/932) requires registration with AZ DHS (every 3 years). Food handler card required. Allows most no...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	State baseline applies	Non-TCS and some perishable foods allowed (post-HB 2042, 2024).
POPULATION	4,430,871	1,042,393	433,338

## State context — Arizona cottage food law

Maricopa County's rules sit on top of Arizona'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> A.R.S. §36-931 / §36-932	<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> No
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> Yes — Retail and wholesale sales are allowed for non-dairy/ non-meat products; stores must display homemade products separately from commercially produced items; dairy and meat products must be sold directly in person (online orders allowed but must be delivered in person, not via third-party platforms).	

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.azleg.gov/arsDetail/?title=36>

State dept cottage food page: <https://azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/food-safety-environmental-services/index.php#cottage-food>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/arizona/>

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/arizona/maricopa-county-discuss>

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