

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Adams County

Colorado · Brighton · FIPS 08001 · Population 520,149 ·  
Crosodo Index #554\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
C.R.S. §25-4-1614	Great	Tiered (see notes)	HIGH	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.

COLORADO: ADAMS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #554\* · FIPS 08001 · Brighton

# Adams County

Population 520,149 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **HIGH**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only, \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Adams County Business Guidebook (2025, official adamscountyco.gov) states: 'We do not have a license or permit specific to home occupations; however, you must abide by our Development Standards and Regulations.' Home occupation standards are in Adams County Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07. Jurisdiction is unincorporated Adams County only. For properties within cities (Brighton, Thornton, Aurora, Commerce City, Westminster), contact the respective city's Planning Department. A Retail Food License is NOT required if operating under the Colorado Cottage Food Act. Contact Planner of the Day at 720-523-6800 or cedd-plan@adamscountyco.gov.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (State: complaint-based. County: pre-permit site inspection possible.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Implied by food safety training requirement
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Standard home kitchen storage; no outdoor storage per home occupation rules

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — State: complaint-based. County: pre-permit site inspection possible.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Adams County Business Guidebook (2025, official adamscountyco.gov) states: 'We do not have a license or permit specific to home occupations; however, you must abide by our Development Standards and Regulations.' Home occupation standards are in Adams County Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07. Jurisdiction is unincorporated Adams County only. For properties within cities (Brighton, Thornton, Aurora, Commerce City, Westminster), contact the respective city's Planning Department. A Retail Food License is NOT required if operating under the Colorado Cottage Food Act. Contact Planner of the Day at 720-523-6800 or cedd-plan@adamscountyco.gov.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	No

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Incidental pickup at home permitted. Farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online/mail/home delivery within Colorado. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. No retail/restaurant sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Adams County: no specific home occupation employee limit found; follow Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07

### Relevant county code

Adams County Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07 (Home Occupations), State: C.R.S. §25-4-1614.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Adams County Business Guidebook 2025 PDF retrieved directly from [adamscountyco.gov](https://adamscountyco.gov). Explicitly states no separate home occupation permit in unincorporated Adams County — must follow Development Standards Section 4-03-03-02-07. Retail Food License is NOT required for cottage food operations under Colorado Cottage Food Act per the guidebook. For incorporated cities within Adams County, contact the specific city’s planning department. Colorado state law: food safety training required, \$10,000 per-product cap, no retail/restaurant sales. Confidence high: official Adams County document directly retrieved.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.adcogov.org>

<https://adamscountyco.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/CED-2025-08-Business-Guidebook-English.pdf>

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dehs/cottage-foods>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Adams County	Jefferson County	Arapahoe County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Incidental pickup at home permitted. Farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online/mail/home delivery within Colorado. \$10,000 per-pr...	Incidental pickup of goods permitted. Online and mail-order sales allowed. \$10,000 per-product annual cap within Colorado. No retail/restau...	Incidental pickup at home is permitted. Sales may occur at farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online with mail/home delivery with...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	No	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire...	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire...	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorad...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage; no outdoor storage per home occupation rules	No outdoor storage per Jefferson County home occupation rules; storage within home/garage (up to 25% of garage)	Products stored in home kitchen; no outdoor storage per Arapahoe County home occupation rules
POPULATION	520,149	580,519	654,453

## State context — Colorado cottage food law

Adams County’s rules sit on top of Colorado’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

---

<b>STATUTE</b> C.R.S. §25-4-1614	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> Tiered (see notes)
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> No — Products cannot be resold; producers must sell directly to consumers but may designate a representative to sell on their behalf. Sales through restaurants or retail stores are not permitted, though the health department may allow direct sales at those locations on a case-by-case basis.	

---

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

---

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a\\_158\\_signed.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a_158_signed.pdf)

State dept cottage food page: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

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

---

## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/colorado/adams-county-discuss>

---