

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Arapahoe County

Colorado · Littleton · FIPS 08005 · Population 654,453 ·
Crosodo Index #1363*

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: ARAPAHOE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1363* · FIPS 08005 · Littleton

Arapahoe County

Population 654,453 · 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. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorado. No sales to restaurants or grocery stores. Must complete food safety training course before starting.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

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

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Arapahoe County Zoning Resolution Section 12-400 governs home occupations in unincorporated areas. A Miscellaneous Permit from Planning & Zoning is required. Operation must be conducted entirely within the principal dwelling by residents only; no visible advertising on premises; no outdoor storage; no truck/trailer deliveries; sales primarily by telephone or direct mail with incidental pickup permitted; must not alter neighborhood character. Up to 20% of garage may be used for storage. Incorporated cities within Arapahoe County (Aurora, Englewood, Centennial, Littleton) have separate city-level requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State: no pre-operational inspection; complaint-based only. County home occupation: a site inspection may occur prior to issuance of a miscellaneous permit.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorado. No sales to restaurants or grocery stores. Must complete food safety training course before starting.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law
HANDWASHING	Implied by food safety training requirement; no specific separate provision
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored in home kitchen; no outdoor storage per Arapahoe County home occupation rules

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State: no pre-operational inspection; complaint-based only. County home occupation: a site inspection may occur prior to issuance of a miscellaneous permit.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Arapahoe County Zoning Resolution Section 12-400 governs home occupations in unincorporated areas. A Miscellaneous Permit from Planning & Zoning is required. Operation must be conducted entirely within the principal dwelling by residents only; no visible advertising on premises; no outdoor storage; no truck/trailer deliveries; sales primarily by telephone or direct mail with incidental pickup permitted; must not alter neighborhood character. Up to 20% of garage may be used for storage. Incorporated cities within Arapahoe County (Aurora, Englewood, Centennial, Littleton) have separate city-level requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Incidental pickup at home is permitted. Sales may occur at farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online with mail/home delivery within Colorado. No retail/restaurant sales. Cottage foods subject to income and sales tax; local business licenses may apply.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Arapahoe County home occupation rules: only residents of principal dwelling may conduct the occupation

Relevant county code

Arapahoe County Zoning Resolution Section 12-400 (Home Occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Colorado Cottage Foods Act (C.R.S. §25-4-1614): no license/registration required by state, food safety training required, \$10,000 per-product annual cap (not total), direct sales within Colorado only, no retail. State law does NOT preempt local ordinances. Arapahoe County Section 12-400 official PDF retrieved directly from arapahoeco.gov — confirms home occupation permit (Miscellaneous Permit) required for unincorporated county areas, no onsite advertising, only residents may work, no outdoor storage, no truck deliveries, incidental customer pickup allowed. Confidence high for unincorporated Arapahoe County zoning rules; city-specific rules (Aurora etc.) vary.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.arapahoegov.com>

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

https://www.arapahoeco.gov/Public%20Works_Development/zoning/faq/Section%2012-400_201810181240598851.pdf

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/colorado/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Arapahoe County	Denver County	Jefferson 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	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Incidental pickup at home is permitted. Sales may occur at farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online with mail/home delivery with...	Direct sales only: in-person, online with in-state delivery, farmers markets, events. No wholesale. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Pending...	Incidental pickup of goods permitted. Online and mail-order sales allowed. \$10,000 per-product annual cap within Colorado. No retail/restau...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorad...	Denver is a consolidated city-county. State baseline applies: free CDPHE registration, \$10,000 per-product annual cap, food handler certifi...	Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire...
FOOD STORAGE	Products stored in home kitchen; no outdoor storage per Arapahoe County home occupation rules	Standard food storage; non-PHF only	No outdoor storage per Jefferson County home occupation rules; storage within home/garage (up to 25% of garage)
POPULATION	654,453	710,800	580,519

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Arapahoe 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.

STATUTE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

INDIRECT SALES

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.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered (see notes)

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

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

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

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

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Arapahoe County, Colorado. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/colorado/arapahoe-county-discuss

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