

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Boulder County

Colorado · Boulder · FIPS 08013 · Population 328,658 ·
Crosodo Index #1682*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; food safety course required; \$10,000 per-product annual cap; direct sales only; no license or inspection required

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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: BOULDER COUNTY

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Population 328,658 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614; food safety course required; \$10,000 per-product annual cap; direct sales only; no license or inspection required · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS non-refrigerated foods only; food safety course required; \$10,000 per-product annual cap; direct to consumer only; labeling required; HOA and local zoning must confirm home-based business allowed)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; kitchen sanitation required

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Boulder County Cottage Foods Checklist (assets.bouldercounty.gov) explicitly states: producer should confirm home-based business authorized by HOA and local zoning. Boulder County Planning Dept and City of Boulder may have home occupation permit requirements; additional business license or tax registration may apply)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (CDPHE complaint-based; contact cdphe_mfgfd@state.co.us)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS non-refrigerated foods only; food safety course required; \$10,000 per-product annual cap; direct to consumer only; labeling required; HOA and local zoning must confirm home-based business allowed
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; kitchen sanitation required
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — CDPHE complaint-based; contact cdphe_mfgfd@state.co.us
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Boulder County Cottage Foods Checklist (assets.bouldercounty.gov) explicitly states: producer should confirm home-based business authorized by HOA and local zoning. Boulder County Planning Dept and City of Boulder may have home occupation permit requirements; additional business license or tax registration may apply
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at residence, farmers markets, roadside stands, events, online with in-state delivery only; no sales to restaurants or grocery stores; no interstate shipping
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Single proprietor or LLC with 2 or fewer owners

Relevant county code

Boulder County Cottage Foods Checklist (CDPHE/Boulder County joint guidance)

RESEARCH NOTES

Boulder County has a joint CDPHE/county-published Cottage Foods Checklist that explicitly references local zoning and HOA verification requirements. County has both a health department and planning department with relevant URLs. Per-product \$10,000 CO cap is notably restrictive.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bouldercounty.gov/health>

<https://www.bouldercounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.bouldercounty.gov>

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

<https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/cottage-foods-checklist.pdf>

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

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Boulder 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.

<p>STATUTE C.R.S. §25-4-1614</p> <p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes</p> <p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered (see notes)</p> <p>FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)</p> <p>DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes</p>
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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 Boulder County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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