

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Denver County

Colorado · Denver · FIPS 08031 · Population 710,800 ·
Crosodo Index #1233*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Foods Act); per-product cap \$10,000/year; CDPHE registration required

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Great	Tiered (see notes)	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.

COLORADO: DENVER COUNTY

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Population 710,800 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Foods Act); per-product cap \$10,000/year; CDPHE registration required · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Denver is a consolidated city-county. State baseline applies: free CDPHE registration, \$10,000 per-product annual cap, food handler certification required. Denver Public Health may have additional guidance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (City and County of Denver has home occupation permit requirements. Contact Denver Community Planning and Development for home occupation permit (ZONING HOME OCCUPATION). Denver Revised Municipal Code Section 59-93 governs home occupations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Denver Public Health / CDPHE may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Denver is a consolidated city-county. State baseline applies: free CDPHE registration, \$10,000 per-product annual cap, food handler certification required. Denver Public Health may have additional guidance.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; municipal supply standard in Denver
HANDWASHING	Food handler certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage; non-PHF only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Denver Public Health / CDPHE may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — City and County of Denver has home occupation permit requirements. Contact Denver Community Planning and Development for home occupation permit (ZONING HOME OCCUPATION). Denver Revised Municipal Code Section 59-93 governs home occupations.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only: in-person, online with in-state delivery, farmers markets, events. No wholesale. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Pending HB 26-1033 would expand if enacted (effective 2027).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; Denver Revised Municipal Code §59-93 (home occupations)

RESEARCH NOTES

Denver County follows Colorado state baseline for cottage food. Denver is a consolidated city-county. The \$10,000 per-product cap (not total revenue) is Colorado’s distinctive feature. Denver likely has home occupation permit requirements (Denver ZONING HOME OCCUPATION permit). County seat field blank in input — Denver is the county seat. Free CDPHE registration required. Pending HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act) would expand permitted foods and remove per-product cap effective 2027.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.denvergov.org/government/agencies-departments-offices/agencies-departments-offices-directory/public-health-and-environment>
- <https://www.denvergov.org/cpd>
- <https://www.denvergov.org>
- <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods>

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

State context — Colorado cottage food law

Denver 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered (see notes)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
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.	

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

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