

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Douglas County

Colorado · Castle Rock · FIPS 08035 · Population 360,206 ·
Crosodo Index #2508*

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: DOUGLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2508* · FIPS 08035 · Castle Rock

Douglas County

Population 360,206 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Colorado Cottage Food Act (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) allows non-refrigerated, non-PHF foods with no licensing or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$10,000 per product (not total). Free CDPHE registration required. Food safety training course required (CSU Extension ~\$50, or online food handler ~\$10-15). Allowed: baked goods, candies, tortillas, empanadas, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower), jams/jellies/preserves, fruit butter, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods. Prohibited: salsas, sauces, ketchup, mustards, meat jerkies, juices, kombucha, foods requiring refrigeration. Douglas County Health Department confirms Cottage Food Act permits sale without licensing or inspection.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Douglas County municipalities (Castle Rock, Parker, Highlands Ranch, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Operators should verify with local municipality. Douglas County itself (unincorporated areas) may have home occupation requirements. Check landlord or HOA policies if applicable.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection. Douglas County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Colorado Cottage Food Act (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) allows non-refrigerated, non-PHF foods with no licensing or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$10,000 per product (not total). Free CDPHE registration required. Food safety training course required (CSU Extension ~\$50, or online food handler ~\$10-15). Allowed: baked goods, candies, tortillas, empanadas, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower), jams/jellies/preserves, fruit butter, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods. Prohibited: salsas, sauces, ketchup, mustards, meat jerkies, juices, kombucha, foods requiring refrigeration. Douglas County Health Department confirms Cottage Food Act permits sale without licensing or inspection.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY

Apartment/condo kitchens qualify as long as it is primary residence. Check landlord/HOA policies.

HANDWASHING

Food safety training course required; handwashing per food safety training standards.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-refrigerated, non-PHF finished products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection. Douglas County Health Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Douglas County municipalities (Castle Rock, Parker, Highlands Ranch, etc.) have their own home occupation rules. Operators should verify with local municipality. Douglas County itself (unincorporated areas) may have home occupation requirements. Check landlord or HOA policies if applicable.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only (Colorado cottage food law is direct-to-consumer only). Internet sales permitted. In-state delivery permitted. No wholesale or retail store sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Food Act); Douglas County Zoning/home occupation ordinances.

RESEARCH NOTES

Douglas County Health Department has a dedicated cottage foods page confirming Colorado Cottage Food Act requirements: food safety certification required, no licensing/inspection needed. Official douglasco.gov .gov source confirmed. Colorado cottage food law well-documented from state baseline. \$10,000 per-product cap (not total) is distinctive — multiple products can exceed \$10,000 total combined. HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act) pending — would expand to allow refrigerated/meat items and remove per-product cap effective January 1, 2027 if enacted. Confidence high: both state law and Douglas County Health confirmed from .gov sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.douglas.co.us>

<https://www.douglasco.gov/health-department/farmers-markets-and-cottage-foods/>

<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/douglas-county-discuss>

State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

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