

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

El Paso County

Colorado · Colorado Springs · FIPS 08041 · Population
730,323 · Crosodo Index #1236*

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: EL PASO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1236* · FIPS 08041 · Colorado Springs

El Paso County

Population 730,323 · 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 (State baseline applies. Free CDPHE registration required. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total revenue). Food handler certification required (CSU Extension, online course, or local health dept). Complaint-based inspection only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (City of Colorado Springs has home occupation permit requirements. Contact Colorado Springs Planning Division or Pikes Peak Regional Building Department. El Paso County Community Services applies to unincorporated areas. State cottage food law does not preempt local zoning for home occupations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (CDPHE or El Paso County Public Health may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — State baseline applies. Free CDPHE registration required. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total revenue). Food handler certification required (CSU Extension, online course, or local health dept). Complaint-based inspection only. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Not specified; standard sanitation applies |
| WATER SUPPLY | Potable water; state baseline |
| HANDWASHING | Food handler certification from an approved course required (CSU Extension ~\$50, or online ~\$10-15) |
| FOOD STORAGE | Standard food storage; non-PHF only |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint — CDPHE or El Paso County Public Health may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspections. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — City of Colorado Springs has home occupation permit requirements. Contact Colorado Springs Planning Division or Pikes Peak Regional Building Department. El Paso County Community Services applies to unincorporated areas. State cottage food law does not preempt local zoning for home occupations. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

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 (no total revenue cap across all products). Whole eggs separately allowed up to 250 dozen/month. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Unknown |

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; Colorado Springs City Code for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

El Paso County follows Colorado state baseline for cottage food. The \$10,000 per-product (not total) cap is a distinctive Colorado feature. Colorado Springs is the dominant municipality and Colorado’s second-largest city. Pending HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act) would expand permitted foods and remove the per-product cap effective January 1, 2027. Free CDPHE registration required. No El Paso County-specific cottage food ordinance found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org>

<https://www.elpasoco.com/community-services>

<https://www.elpasoco.com>

<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/el-paso-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | El Paso County | Douglas County | Pueblo County |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Conditional | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Not specified; standard sanitation applies | No specific state restriction in cottage food law. | No explicit state restriction; food handler training addresses safety practices. |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes | Yes | Conditional |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional | Conditional | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Direct sales only: in-person, online with in-state delivery, farmers markets, events. No wholesale. \$10,000 per-product annual cap (no tota... | Direct sales only (Colorado cottage food law is direct-to-consumer only). Internet sales permitted. In-state delivery permitted. No wholesa... | Direct sales from home (limited per zoning), farmers markets, and online within Colorado. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional | Conditional | Conditional |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies | Varies | Yes |
| RESTRICTIONS | State baseline applies. Free CDPHE registration required. \$10,000 annual cap per product (not total revenue). Food handler certification re... | Colorado Cottage Food Act (C.R.S. §25-4-1614) allows non-refrigerated, non-PHF foods with no licensing or inspection required. Annual sales... | Free CDPHE registration required. Food handler course required (CSU Extension, online, or local health dept course). Annual cap \$10,000 per... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Standard food storage; non-PHF only | Non-refrigerated, non-PHF finished products only. | Non-refrigerated products stored in sanitary conditions. |
| POPULATION | 730,323 | 360,206 | 168,135 |

State context — Colorado cottage food law

El Paso 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> |
|--|---|

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

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