

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gunnison County

Colorado · Gunnison · FIPS 08051 · Population 17,310 ·
Crosodo Index #3060*

STATE BASELINE

C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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: GUNNISON COUNTY

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Population 17,310 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614; CO tier: Great; cdphe.colorado.gov/cottage-foods · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

True (Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit but Gunnison County Land Use Resolution (Section 9-102) specifically governs Home Occupations. One home occupation is allowed without a Land Use Change Permit; more than one home occupation in the same residence requires an Administrative Review Project (Land Use Change Permit). Home occupations must comply with aggregate standards on employee numbers and activity levels per Section 9-102. Producers should contact the Community Development Department (planning@gunnisoncounty.org, 970-641-0360) to confirm compliance.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

False (Complaint-based only per state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614))

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN False

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required; private well users should verify water quality

HANDWASHING Required per CO cottage food food safety training requirements

FOOD STORAGE Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED False — Complaint-based only per state law (C.R.S. §25-4-1614)

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT True — Colorado cottage food law does not require a local permit but Gunnison County Land Use Resolution (Section 9-102) specifically governs Home Occupations. One home occupation is allowed without a Land Use Change Permit; more than one home occupation in the same residence requires an Administrative Review Project (Land Use Change Permit). Home occupations must comply with aggregate standards on employee numbers and activity levels per Section 9-102. Producers should contact the Community Development Department (planning@gunnisoncounty.org, 970-641-0360) to confirm compliance.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Possibly; City of Gunnison and Town of Crested Butte may require local business licenses for operations within their limits

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Restricted under Gunnison County Land Use Resolution home occupation standards; limited signage typically allowed
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores; home occupation rules may restrict customer visits
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Home occupation standards restrict non-resident employees; aggregate activity levels must not exceed home occupation standards per Section 9-102

Relevant county code

C.R.S. §25-4-1614 (Colorado Cottage Foods Act); Gunnison County Land Use Resolution Section 9-102 (Home Occupations); Section 5-102 (Administrative Review Projects)

RESEARCH NOTES

Gunnison County Land Use Resolution confirmed with Section 9-102 Home Occupations provisions. One home occupation allowed without Land Use Change Permit; more than one requires Administrative Review. Community Development contact confirmed: planning@gunnisoncounty.org, 970-641-0360. Resort county with Crested Butte ski area. Region 10 SBDC serves this area. Colorado cottage food law does not preempt local zoning. \$10,000 annual cap per product type.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/228/Public-Health>

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/156/Community-Development>

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org>

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

<http://gunnisoncounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3157/Gunnison-County-Land-Use-Resolution--Amended-September-8-2022>

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/371/Administrative-Review-Projects>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Gunnison County	Chaffee County	Delta County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	True	True	True
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	False	False	False
PETS ALLOWED	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production	No specific county rule; state guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
INSPECTION REQUIRED	False	False	False
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True	True	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Restricted under Gunnison County Land Use Resolution home occupation standards; limited signage typically allowed	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage	Not regulated at state level; local home occupation rules may restrict signage
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores; home occupation rules may re...	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores	Direct-to-consumer sales only; product must be sold in Colorado; cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	True	Possibly	Possibly
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Possibly; City of Gunnison and Town of Crested Butte may require local business licenses for operations within their limits	Possibly; City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista may require local business licenses for operations within their limits	Possibly; City of Delta may require a city business license for operations within city limits; confirm with City of Delta
RESTRICTIONS	—	—	—
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)	Standard food safety storage per C.R.S. §25-4-1614; all products must be non-potentially hazardous (non-refrigerated)
POPULATION	17,018	19,564	31,173

State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

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