

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Colorado · Golden · FIPS 08059 · Population 580,519 ·
Crosodo Index #2181*

| 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: JEFFERSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2181* · FIPS 08059 · Golden

Jefferson County

Population 580,519 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 (Home Occupations, amended to 2018): A Miscellaneous Permit must be obtained from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning. Conditions: conducted entirely within residential lot by inhabitants; up to 1 additional non-resident employee allowed; must be secondary to residential use; total area not to exceed 25% or 800 sq ft; no exterior storage; no offensive emissions; no exterior structure changes; incidental signage per Sign Section; up to 2 additional vehicles at one time. Exclusions: restaurants, body/mechanical repair, kennels, medical/dental facilities, tattoo shops, retail sales other than ancillary. Mail-order business allowed via Administrative Exception. Cottage food sales from home likely qualify as permitted home occupation with miscellaneous permit.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (County home occupation: possible site inspection before miscellaneous permit issued. State: complaint-based only.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Direct sales to informed end consumers within Colorado only. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply |
| WATER SUPPLY | No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law |
| HANDWASHING | Implied by food safety training requirement |
| FOOD STORAGE | No outdoor storage per Jefferson County home occupation rules; storage within home/garage (up to 25% of garage) |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint — County home occupation: possible site inspection before miscellaneous permit issued. State: complaint-based only. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Yes — Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 (Home Occupations, amended to 2018): A Miscellaneous Permit must be obtained from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning. Conditions: conducted entirely within residential lot by inhabitants; up to 1 additional non-resident employee allowed; must be secondary to residential use; total area not to exceed 25% or 800 sq ft; no exterior storage; no offensive emissions; no exterior structure changes; incidental signage per Sign Section; up to 2 additional vehicles at one time. Exclusions: restaurants, body/mechanical repair, kennels, medical/dental facilities, tattoo shops, retail sales other than ancillary. Mail-order business allowed via Administrative Exception. Cottage food sales from home likely qualify as permitted home occupation with miscellaneous permit. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Incidental pickup of goods permitted. Online and mail-order sales allowed. \$10,000 per-product annual cap within Colorado. No retail/restaurant sales. Jefferson County home occupation rules limit traffic/customer congestion. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Jefferson County Zoning Section 21: up to 1 additional non-resident employee permitted beyond household residents |

Relevant county code

Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 (Home Occupations). State: C.R.S. §25-4-1614.

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County Zoning Resolution Section 21 PDF retrieved directly from jeffco.us (official county website). Confirms Miscellaneous Permit required for home occupations; specifies 25%/800 sq ft area limit; 1 non-resident employee allowed; no exterior storage; no restaurant exclusion applies to cottage food (which is food production, not restaurant service). Colorado state cottage food law applies statewide; no local preemption. Incorporated cities within Jefferson County (Arvada, Lakewood, Golden, etc.) have their own codes. Confidence high for unincorporated Jefferson County; city-level rules may vary.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.jeffco.us>

<https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/2489/Section-21-Home-Occupations-PDF>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Jefferson County | Arapahoe County | Adams County |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply | No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards apply |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional | Conditional | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional | No | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Incidental pickup of goods permitted. Online and mail-order sales allowed. \$10,000 per-product annual cap within Colorado. No retail/restau... | Incidental pickup at home is permitted. Sales may occur at farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online with mail/home delivery with... | Incidental pickup at home permitted. Farmers markets, roadside stands, festivals, online/mail/home delivery within Colorado. \$10,000 per-pr... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Yes | Conditional | Conditional |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies | Varies | No |
| RESTRICTIONS | Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire... | Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. Products must be sold directly to informed end consumers in Colorad... | Non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require refrigeration only. \$10,000 per-product annual cap. Food safety training required. Dire... |
| FOOD STORAGE | No outdoor storage per Jefferson County home occupation rules; storage within home/garage (up to 25% of garage) | Products stored in home kitchen; no outdoor storage per Arapahoe County home occupation rules | Standard home kitchen storage; no outdoor storage per home occupation rules |
| POPULATION | 580,519 | 654,453 | 520,149 |

State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

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