

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Mesa County

Colorado · Grand Junction · FIPS 08077 · Population 156,131 ·
Crosodo Index #2791*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
C.R.S. §25-4-1614	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: MESA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2791* · FIPS 08077 · Grand Junction

Mesa County

Population 156,131 · State baseline: C.R.S. §25-4-1614 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Colorado requires free CDPHE registration. Food safety training required (various options: CSU Extension \$50, online food handler card ~\$10-15). Allowed non-refrigerated non-PHF foods: baked goods, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or below), jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butter, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods, whole eggs (250-dozen/month limit). Annual cap is \$10,000 per product (not total revenue). Direct sales only (no indirect sales).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Mesa County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. Grand Junction has its own zoning rules. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (CDPHE may inspect upon complaint or as part of registration process.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Colorado requires free CDPHE registration. Food safety training required (various options: CSU Extension \$50, online food handler card ~\$10-15). Allowed non-refrigerated non-PHF foods: baked goods, pickled fruits/vegetables (pH 4.6 or below), jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butter, spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, flour, fermented foods, whole eggs (250-dozen/month limit). Annual cap is \$10,000 per product (not total revenue). Direct sales only (no indirect sales).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Colorado cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Food safety training covers handwashing requirements.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-refrigerated non-PHF foods only. Proper storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — CDPHE may inspect upon complaint or as part of registration process.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Mesa County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. Grand Junction has its own zoning rules. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only: from home, at farmers markets, fairs, events, and via internet/mail order within Colorado only. No wholesale or indirect sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Mesa County Zoning Regulations; C.R.S. §25-4-1614

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Colorado per-product \$10,000 cap is unusual — multiple products can be sold. HB 26-1033 (Tamale Act, 2026) pending to expand rules starting January 2027. No Mesa County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2022a_158_signed.pdf

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

State context — Colorado cottage food law

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

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