

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Alachua County

Florida · Gainesville · FIPS 12001 · Population 279,729 ·
Crosodo Index #1934*

STATE BASELINE

Fla. Stat. §500.80; no registration or inspection required; \$250,000 annual sales cap; home kitchen allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Great	250000	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.

FLORIDA: ALACHUA COUNTY

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QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only; labeling with disclaimer required; \$250,000 annual cap; no state license or inspection)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (FL does not preempt local zoning. Alachua County and City of Gainesville (University of Florida) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local planning)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (FDACS or county health may investigate on complaint)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only; labeling with disclaimer required; \$250,000 annual cap; no state license or inspection
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — FDACS or county health may investigate on complaint
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — FL does not preempt local zoning. Alachua County and City of Gainesville (University of Florida) may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operator should verify with local planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales; online, farmers markets, and events permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Alachua County has FL Dept of Health county office (alachua.floridahealth.gov). County includes Gainesville (UF). No county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond FL state baseline.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://alachua.floridahealth.gov>

<https://alachuacounty.us>

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

Alachua County’s rules sit on top of Florida’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE Fla. Stat. §500.80	ANNUAL SALES CAP 250000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Limited (see notes) — Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Florida cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/florida/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Alachua County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/alachua-county-discuss>
