

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bay County

Florida · Panama City · FIPS 12005 · Population 181,055 ·
Crosodo Index #1243*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. \$500.80	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: BAY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1243* · FIPS 12005 · Panama City

Bay County

Population 181,055 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$250,000. No wholesale. Strong state preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local government restrictions on cottage food operations. Must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local restrictions. However, producers must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Bay County has no verified county-level cottage food overlay beyond state law. County URLs were blank in input.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon receipt of a consumer complaint per §500.80(7). No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS foods only. Annual sales cap \$250,000. No wholesale. Strong state preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local government restrictions on cottage food operations. Must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per good manufacturing practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products stored in clean, dry conditions.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon receipt of a consumer complaint per §500.80(7). No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State preemption (§500.80(6)) prohibits local restrictions. However, producers must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Bay County has no verified county-level cottage food overlay beyond state law. County URLs were blank in input.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct sales from home and farmers markets allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; no specific county code found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state preemption is strong and well-established. Bay County is the location of Panama City and Panama City Beach; no county-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state law. County URLs were blank in input. Same as other Florida pattern counties.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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