

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Broward County

Florida · Fort Lauderdale · FIPS 12011 · Population 1,940,907 ·
Crosodo Index #2457*

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: BROWARD COUNTY

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Broward County

Population 1,940,907 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food operations. In the Broward Municipal Services District (unincorporated Broward), home-based businesses are permitted in all residential districts under Broward County Code Sec. 39-237, subject to limitations. Cottage food is not separately addressed in county code; operators must comply with home-based business rules. Most Broward residents are in incorporated municipalities with their own codes.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Broward County Sec. 39-237 allows home-based businesses in all residential zoning districts in unincorporated areas with limitations (no retail transactions at home, up to 2 non-resident employees, activities secondary to residential use). Incorporated municipalities (Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Miramar, etc.) have their own home occupation permit requirements. No specific county cottage food permit found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State: inspection only upon complaint. County: no separate cottage food inspection. Home-based business operations in unincorporated areas comply with Sec. 39-237 which does not require a specific permit for home occupation per state preemption.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food operations. In the Broward Municipal Services District (unincorporated Broward), home-based businesses are permitted in all residential districts under Broward County Code Sec. 39-237, subject to limitations. Cottage food is not separately addressed in county code; operators must comply with home-based business rules. Most Broward residents are in incorporated municipalities with their own codes.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

State baseline applies

WATER SUPPLY

State baseline applies

HANDWASHING

State baseline applies

FOOD STORAGE

Products may only be stored on cottage operation’s premises (state baseline).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State: inspection only upon complaint. County: no separate cottage food inspection. Home-based business operations in unincorporated areas comply with Sec. 39-237 which does not require a specific permit for home occupation per state preemption.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Broward County Sec. 39-237 allows home-based businesses in all residential zoning districts in unincorporated areas with limitations (no retail transactions at home, up to 2 non-resident employees, activities secondary to residential use). Incorporated municipalities (Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Miramar, etc.) have their own home occupation permit requirements. No specific county cottage food permit found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	County code prohibits retail transactions at the home in unincorporated Broward. State law allows internet/mail order sales and event sales. State preemption bars county from restricting cottage food operations specifically.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Up to 2 non-resident employees/contractors permitted under Broward County Code Sec. 39-237 for home-based businesses

Relevant county code

Broward County Code of Ordinances Sec. 39-237 (Home-based business, BMSD/unincorporated areas)

RESEARCH NOTES

Broward County has very little unincorporated area (the BMSD); the vast majority of residents are in incorporated municipalities with their own codes. State preemption (Fla. Stat. §500.80(6)) prevents local prohibition or regulation of cottage food operations, but home-based business rules (§559.955) still apply. The county’s home-based business ordinance (Sec. 39-237) allows up to 2 non-resident employees, prohibits on-site retail transactions, and requires activities to be secondary to residential use. No specific county cottage food permit requirement found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://broward.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.broward.org/Planning>

<https://www.broward.org>

https://www.zoneomics.com/code/broward-county-unincorporated-FL/chapter_15

<https://www.broward.org/Building/Zoning/Pages/Default.aspx>

<https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?>

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

Broward 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.

<p>STATUTE Fla. Stat. §500.80</p> <p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED No</p> <p>KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP 250000</p> <p>FOOD HANDLER CERT No</p> <p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
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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 Broward County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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