

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Charlotte County

Florida · Punta Gorda · FIPS 12015 · Population 189,900 ·  
Crosodo Index #1246\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fl. 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: CHARLOTTE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1246\* · FIPS 12015 · Punta Gorda

# Charlotte County

Population 189,900 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. State preemption clause bars local restrictions. Charlotte County is on the Gulf Coast southwest of Fort Myers.)

### SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

### PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Charlotte County and City of Punta Gorda may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Charlotte County Community Development or City of Punta Gorda Planning.)

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

### INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon written consumer complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. State preemption clause bars local restrictions. Charlotte County is on the Gulf Coast southwest of Fort Myers.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement under Florida cottage food law.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon written consumer complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Charlotte County and City of Punta Gorda may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required. Contact Charlotte County Community Development or City of Punta Gorda Planning.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee cap in Florida cottage food statute.

### Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; §559.955; Charlotte County zoning for home occupation

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state baseline applies. Charlotte County (county seat: Punta Gorda) is on Florida’s Gulf Coast, popular retirement community. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. Florida’s cottage food framework is producer-friendly.

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#### 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](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/charlotte-county-discuss>

## State context — Florida cottage food law

Charlotte 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.

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<p><b>STATUTE</b> Fla. Stat. §500.80</p> <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No</p> <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint</p> <p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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><b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 250000</p> <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> No</p> <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> No</p>
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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Florida cottage food law report](#).

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### 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](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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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