

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gulf County

Florida · — · FIPS 12045 · Population 15,876 · Crosodo Index #3069*

STATE BASELINE

Fl. Stat. §500.80; FL tier: Great

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

250000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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: GULF COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3069* · FIPS 12045 · —

Gulf County

Population 15,876 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. \$500.80; FL tier: Great · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state or county-specific rule for cottage food

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Likely; verify with Gulf County (No Gulf County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small coastal Panhandle county (pop. ~16,000) with county seat Port Saint Joe. Still recovering from 2018 Hurricane Michael impacts. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint only (State inspection only upon receipt of complaint per Fla. Stat. \$500.80(7); county cannot add inspections)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN False

PET RESTRICTIONS No state or county-specific rule for cottage food

WATER SUPPLY No state requirement for cottage food; county may have residential water standards

HANDWASHING No state requirement for cottage food registration; standard GMP expected

FOOD STORAGE Non-TCS (non-temperature controlled) foods only; standard sanitary storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Upon-complaint only — State inspection only upon receipt of complaint per Fla. Stat. \$500.80(7); county cannot add inspections

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Likely; verify with Gulf County — No Gulf County-specific home occupation ordinance text located in search. Small coastal Panhandle county (pop. ~16,000) with county seat Port Saint Joe. Still recovering from 2018 Hurricane Michael impacts. Local business tax receipt and possible zoning approval likely required. State preempts county from banning cottage food.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Likely; Gulf County local business tax receipt; contact Gulf County Tax Collector

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP True

ON-SITE SIGNAGE Must comply with Gulf County signage ordinances

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct-to-consumer; online/mail-order allowed; shipping within and across state lines via USPS or commercial carrier; no wholesale/consignment; max \$250,000 annual gross sales

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No state limit; local home occupation rules may apply

RESEARCH NOTES

No Gulf County-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance surfaced in search. Small Florida Panhandle coastal county. State baseline (Fla. Stat. §500.80) governs; county cannot restrict cottage food production.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdGulf/>

<https://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov/building-zoning>

<https://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov>

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/70108/file/Cottage-Food-Operations.pdf>

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS425>

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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