

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Hillsborough County

Florida · Tampa · FIPS 12057 · Population 1,468,560 ·  
Crosodo Index #2151\*

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: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2151\* · FIPS 12057 · Tampa

# Hillsborough County

Population 1,468,560 · 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. Hillsborough County has no county-specific cottage food permit beyond what is required under Fla. Stat. §559.955 (home-based business conditions). No routine inspection; only upon complaint.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

State baseline applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies by city (Florida state preemption bars local prohibition of cottage food. Home-based business conditions under §559.955 apply. Incorporated cities within Hillsborough County (Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City) may have home occupation permit requirements. No county-specific cottage food permit found.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (State: inspection only upon complaint (§500.80(7)). No county-level inspection authority for cottage food.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food. Hillsborough County has no county-specific cottage food permit beyond what is required under Fla. Stat. §559.955 (home-based business conditions). No routine inspection; only upon complaint.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	State baseline applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	State baseline applies
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	State baseline applies
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Products may only be stored on cottage operation’s premises.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — State: inspection only upon complaint (§500.80(7)). No county-level inspection authority for cottage food.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies by city — Florida state preemption bars local prohibition of cottage food. Home-based business conditions under §559.955 apply. Incorporated cities within Hillsborough County (Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City) may have home occupation permit requirements. No county-specific cottage food permit found.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies by city

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows internet/mail order sales, event sales. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

### Relevant county code

none county-specific found; Fla. Stat. §500.80 and §559.955 apply

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Hillsborough County (Tampa) follows Florida state baseline. State preemption is strong. No county-specific cottage food rules found. The county type is listed as 'borough' in the input data but this appears to be a data entry error — Hillsborough is a standard Florida county.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org>

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

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

[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/hillsborough-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hillsborough County	Pinellas County	Polk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	Not specified in state law; products must not be contaminated	Not specified in state law
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows internet/mail order sales, event sales. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.	Sales allowed from residence, online, by mail-order, at farmers markets, flea markets, and roadside stands. Mail delivery explicitly permit...	Home, online, mail-order, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands. No wholesale to restaurants/ grocery stores. \$250,000 annual cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Florida state law preempts local regulation of cottage food. Hillsborough County has no county-specific cottage food permit beyond what is ...	Must be produced in operator’s home kitchen only; no garages, sheds, barns, or outbuildings. Motor home kitchens are not permitted. Product...	Florida strong state preemption applies. Must be in operator’s home kitchen only. Non-TCS foods only. Production and storage in single-fami...
FOOD STORAGE	Products may only be stored on cottage operation’s premises.	Ingredients and finished products must be stored in the single-family domestic residence; spare rooms or basements free of dampness/ pests a...	Storage in single-family domestic residence only; no outbuildings
POPULATION	1,468,560	959,918	736,229

## State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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

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