

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Monroe County

Florida · Key West · FIPS 12087 · Population 82,044 ·  
Crosodo Index #2570\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. \$500.80	Great	250000	HIGH	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: MONROE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2570\* · FIPS 12087 · Key West

# Monroe County

Population 82,044 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **HIGH**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Florida cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required before starting. Any non-TCS food allowed. \$250,000 annual sales cap. State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) prohibits local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, the home-based business must comply with Monroe County home occupation rules under §559.955.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific statutory restriction.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (Monroe County requires a Home Occupation Special Use Permit for residential businesses. Application fee: \$500 plus \$3 per property owner notification within 300-foot radius. The Director of Planning and Environmental Resources approves the permit. Key conditions: (1) home occupation is incidental/secondary to residential use; (2) must not change residential character; (3) max 1 non-resident employee; (4) may not exceed 20% of dwelling floor area; (5) no customer visits/retail sales requiring customers to come to the dwelling; (6) no outdoor signage; (7) no outdoor storage. The permit is not transferable.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

No

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Inspections may occur only upon receipt of a complaint per §500.80(7).)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Florida cottage food: no registration, permit, or inspection required before starting. Any non-TCS food allowed. \$250,000 annual sales cap. State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) prohibits local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, the home-based business must comply with Monroe County home occupation rules under §559.955.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific statutory restriction.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific statutory requirement.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	No specific statutory requirement.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	No specific statutory requirement.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections may occur only upon receipt of a complaint per \$500.80(7).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Monroe County requires a Home Occupation Special Use Permit for residential businesses. Application fee: \$500 plus \$3 per property owner notification within 300-foot radius. The Director of Planning and Environmental Resources approves the permit. Key conditions: (1) home occupation is incidental/secondary to residential use; (2) must not change residential character; (3) max 1 non-resident employee; (4) may not exceed 20% of dwelling floor area; (5) no customer visits/retail sales requiring customers to come to the dwelling; (6) no outdoor signage; (7) no outdoor storage. The permit is not transferable.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	No
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Monroe County’s home occupation permit specifically prohibits retail sales that require customers to visit the residential dwelling unit. Cottage food sales must therefore be conducted off-site (farmers markets, events, delivery to customers) or online with delivery. Customer pickup at the home is not permitted under Monroe County’s home occupation standards.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-resident employee maximum per Monroe County Home Occupation Special Use Permit.

### Relevant county code

Monroe County Code home occupation provisions (Home Occupation Special Use Permit requirements). Monroe County Planning & Environmental Resources administers.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Monroe County (Florida Keys) is notable for its restrictive home occupation rules, which effectively prohibit on-site customer pickup and require a \$500 Special Use Permit. This is more restrictive than the state’s permissive cottage food law. The county’s Home Occupation Special Use Permit application was directly retrieved from the Monroe County government website (.monroecounty-fl.gov), confirming: \$500 fee, 300-foot neighbor notification, 20% floor area limit, no customer visits, no retail sales, max 1 non-resident employee. The no-customer-visits provision is a significant constraint for cottage food operators. Producers must sell at farmers markets, deliver to customers, or use online sales without home pickup. Confidence is high: county-specific information obtained from official Monroe County .gov document and county website URLs confirmed.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://monroe.floridahealth.gov>
- <https://www.monroecounty.gov/planning>
- <https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov>
- <https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/134/Home-Occ-062023?bidId=>
- <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/monroe-county-discuss>

## State context — Florida cottage food law

Monroe 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><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>
--	---

---

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

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

---