

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sarasota County

Florida · Sarasota · FIPS 12115 · Population 439,392 ·
Crosodo Index #1240*

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: SARASOTA COUNTY

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Sarasota County

Population 439,392 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TCS (no time/temperature control for safety required). Annual gross sales cap \$250,000. Products must be prepackaged with required label including: name/address of operation, product name, ingredients list, net weight/volume, allergens, and statement 'Made in a cottage food operation that is not subject to Florida's food safety regulations.' State preempts local regulation of cottage food preparation, processing, storage, and sale.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction; however Sarasota County home occupation rules apply to home-based businesses generally.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Sarasota County requires a local business tax receipt and/or home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. The home occupation must be secondary to residential use; no external signage; no on-site employees; limited customer visits. Note: Florida Statute §500.80(6) preempts local ordinances from restricting cottage food production/processing/storage/sale, but cottage food operations must still comply with county and municipal ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours. Venice, North Port, and Sarasota city have city-specific rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State may inspect only upon receipt of consumer complaint per §500.80(7). Local health department has no inspection authority over cottage food.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TCS (no time/temperature control for safety required). Annual gross sales cap \$250,000. Products must be prepackaged with required label including: name/address of operation, product name, ingredients list, net weight/volume, allergens, and statement 'Made in a cottage food operation that is not subject to Florida's food safety regulations.' State preempts local regulation of cottage food preparation, processing, storage, and sale.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; however Sarasota County home occupation rules apply to home-based businesses generally.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement for cottage food operations under Florida law.
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations; standard food safety practices recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State may inspect only upon receipt of consumer complaint per §500.80(7). Local health department has no inspection authority over cottage food.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Sarasota County requires a local business tax receipt and/or home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. The home occupation must be secondary to residential use; no external signage; no on-site employees; limited customer visits. Note: Florida Statute §500.80(6) preempts local ordinances from restricting cottage food production/processing/storage/sale, but cottage food operations must still comply with county and municipal ordinances on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours. Venice, North Port, and Sarasota city have city-specific rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales from home, at farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No sales at venues that require a food permit. Cottage food products must be sold separately from regulated food businesses.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local home occupation rules prohibit on-site non-resident employees.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80 (state preemption); Sarasota County Code (home occupation/business tax receipt provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state cottage food law is well-documented. Sarasota County home occupation and business tax receipt requirements confirmed via CityRuleLookup (Municode source). State law preempts local restrictions on cottage food production/sale, but local rules on traffic/signage/noise/hours still apply. \$250,000 cap raised from \$50,000 in 2021. No permit or registration needed from state or county for cottage food. Local business tax receipt required. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; county-specific business tax receipt amount/process not confirmed from .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://sarasota.floridahealth.gov>

<https://www.scgov.net>

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

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/sarasota-county-fl>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/sarasota-county-fl>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sarasota County	Manatee County	Charlotte County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction; however Sarasota County home occupation rules apply to home-based businesses generally.	No specific state restriction for cottage food operations.	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales from home, at farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No sales at venues that require a food permit. Cotta...	Sales from home, farmers markets, flea markets, roadside stands, online/mail-order. No wholesale sales.	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC...	Florida cottage food law (Fla. Stat. §500.80) requires no license, permit, or registration. No inspection required. Products must be non-TC...	Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only.	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage.
POPULATION	439,392	405,069	189,900

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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