

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sumter County

Florida · Bushnell · FIPS 12119 · Population 131,832 · Crosodo Index #2136*

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: SUMTER COUNTY

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Sumter County

Population 131,832 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual gross sales capped at \$250,000. No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. No food handler certification required. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). Business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen sanitation recommended.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (State law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). However, Sumter County home-based business rules under §559.955 may still apply. Sumter County is notable as home to The Villages (large retirement community). Local HOA rules within The Villages may also apply but are separate from government regulations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual gross sales capped at \$250,000. No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. No food handler certification required. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot restrict cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). Business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen sanitation recommended.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required (good practice).
HANDWASHING	Required per good food safety practices; no state mandate for cottage food.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections may only occur upon receipt of a complaint per §500.80(7).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — State law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations (§500.80(6)). However, Sumter County home-based business rules under §559.955 may still apply. Sumter County is notable as home to The Villages (large retirement community). Local HOA rules within The Villages may also apply but are separate from government regulations.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Online sales and mail-order delivery expressly permitted. Direct and indirect sales allowed. Sales must remain within Florida (no interstate shipping of cottage food products).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; Fla. Stat. §559.955 (home-based business rules).

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (FL) confirmed: Fla. Stat. §500.80, \$250,000 cap, no registration required, strong preemption. Sumter County is unique as home of The Villages retirement community, the largest master-planned retirement community in the US. Local HOA rules may impose separate (non-governmental) restrictions within The Villages community. No county-specific URLs in input. County follows state baseline. Confidence medium.

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

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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