

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Walton County

Florida · DeFuniak Springs · FIPS 12131 · Population 76,618 ·
Crosodo Index #1219*

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: WALTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1219* · FIPS 12131 · DeFuniak Springs

Walton County

Population 76,618 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety (non-TCS). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. Inspections only upon complaint. Strong state preemption clause (§500.80(6)).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) prohibits local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, the business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Walton County may have local business registration requirements. No Walton County-specific cottage food restriction ordinance found.)

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 — Any food that does not require time/temperature control for safety (non-TCS). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. Inspections only upon complaint. Strong state preemption clause (§500.80(6)).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections may only occur upon receipt of a complaint per §500.80(7).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State preemption clause (§500.80(6)) prohibits local governments from restricting cottage food operations. However, the business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Walton County may have local business registration requirements. No Walton County-specific cottage food restriction ordinance found.
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. \$250,000 annual sales cap (one of the highest in the country). No wholesale to distributors.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; §559.955. No Walton County-specific restriction found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida’s cottage food law (§500.80) has a strong state preemption clause and \$250,000 annual sales cap. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection required. Walton County Health Department URL confirmed in input data. No Walton County-specific cottage food restrictions found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, county health URL confirmed, no county ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://walton.floridahealth.gov>

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

<https://walton.floridahealth.gov>

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

State context — Florida cottage food law

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

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