

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Chatham County

Georgia · Savannah · FIPS 13051 · Population 296,266 ·  
Crosodo Index #2652\*

## STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); food handler certificate required; no license or inspection required; no sales cap; indirect sales allowed

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Okay	—	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.

GEORGIA: CHATHAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2652\* · FIPS 13051 · Savannah

# Chatham County

Population 296,266 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); food handler certificate required; no license or inspection required; no sales cap; indirect sales allowed · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (GA does not preempt local zoning. Chatham County and City of Savannah may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local planning)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (GA Dept of Agriculture complaint-based)

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Food handler certificate required; non-TCS foods; no state license required; labeling required; expanded product list effective July 2025
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — GA Dept of Agriculture complaint-based
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — GA does not preempt local zoning. Chatham County and City of Savannah may have home occupation permit requirements. Operator should verify with local planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

## Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail, online permitted
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

## Relevant county code

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Same GA baseline as Clayton County. Chatham County includes Savannah — tourist destination with active local food scene. No county-specific overlay found.

---

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.chathamcountyga.gov>

<https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/chatham-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Chatham County’s rules sit on top of Georgia’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

---

<p><b>STATUTE</b> O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&amp;R 40-7-19</p>	<p><b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —</p>
<p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No</p>	<p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)</p>
<p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint</p>	<p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> No</p>
<p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b> Yes — As of July 1, 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows wholesale, online, retail store, restaurant, and mail-order sales; third-party sellers must display cottage food products separately and label the section as products from residential kitchens exempt from state inspection.</p>	

---

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Georgia cottage food law report](#).

---

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2020/title-26/chapter-2/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agr.georgia.gov/cottage-food-program>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/georgia/>

---

## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Chatham County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/georgia/chatham-county-discuss>

---