

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

DeKalb County

Georgia · Decatur · FIPS 13089 · Population 761,209 ·
Crosodo Index #2267*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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: DEKALB COUNTY

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DeKalb County

Population 761,209 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline applies. HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required, no cap, retail sales allowed. ANSI food safety training required. Private water supply requires annual coliform testing.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (DeKalb County has an Occupational Tax Certificate requirement for home-based businesses. Contact DeKalb County Department of Revenue for Occupational Tax Certificate. Zoning compliance required through DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability. For businesses inside incorporated cities (Decatur, Dunwoody, Stone Mountain, etc.), contact that municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (GDA complaint-based only as of HB 398. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED Yes — State baseline applies. HB 398 (July 1, 2025): no state license required, no cap, retail sales allowed. ANSI food safety training required. Private water supply requires annual coliform testing.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN No

PET RESTRICTIONS Not specified; standard sanitation

WATER SUPPLY Municipal water or approved private supply; private well requires annual coliform testing

HANDWASHING Standard sanitation per food safety training

FOOD STORAGE Standard food storage practices

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Upon-complaint — GDA complaint-based only as of HB 398. No routine inspections.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Conditional — DeKalb County has an Occupational Tax Certificate requirement for home-based businesses. Contact DeKalb County Department of Revenue for Occupational Tax Certificate. Zoning compliance required through DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability. For businesses inside incorporated cities (Decatur, Dunwoody, Stone Mountain, etc.), contact that municipality.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	As of HB 398 (July 2025): direct-to-consumer, online, retail store sales, and wholesale permitted. No state cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.; DeKalb County Occupational Tax regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

DeKalb County follows Georgia state baseline. HB 398 (July 1, 2025) dramatically liberalized cottage food law. DeKalb County includes portions of Atlanta metro area. Occupational Tax Certificate likely required for home-based businesses. No DeKalb County-specific cottage food restriction beyond state baseline found. A Facebook post found noted questions about whether county business licenses are needed even after HB 398 removed state licensing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/board-of-health>

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/planning-sustainability>

<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov>

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

<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/dekalb-county-discuss>

State context — Georgia cottage food law

DeKalb 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.

STATUTE O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES 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.	

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

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