

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Fulton County

Georgia · — · FIPS 13121 · Population 1,061,944 · Crosodo Index #2186\*

STATE BASELINE

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 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: FULTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2186\* · FIPS 13121 · —

# Fulton County

Population 1,061,944 · State baseline: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (eff. July 2025); prior: GA R&R 40-7-19

· MEDIUM

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded the cottage food law: no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales allowed. Fulton County follows the state baseline. No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

State baseline applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (No Georgia state requirement for a home occupation permit for cottage food. Fulton County cities (Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Roswell, etc.) may have their own home occupation requirements. No county-specific cottage food permit found.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under new HB 398 framework (effective July 2025). GDA has no routine inspection authority for cottage food.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025) dramatically expanded the cottage food law: no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, wholesale/retail/online/restaurant sales allowed. Fulton County follows the state baseline. No county-specific cottage food overlay found. Private water testing (annual coliform) required if using a private water source.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	State baseline applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water sources require annual coliform testing (state rule). Municipal water: state baseline applies.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	State baseline applies
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	State baseline applies

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under new HB 398 framework (effective July 2025). GDA has no routine inspection authority for cottage food.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — No Georgia state requirement for a home occupation permit for cottage food. Fulton County cities (Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Roswell, etc.) may have their own home occupation requirements. No county-specific cottage food permit found.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies by city

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law (eff. July 2025) allows interstate sales, wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales. No annual sales cap. Broad food categories allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

### Relevant county code

none county-specific found; O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. applies

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Fulton County (Atlanta area) benefits from Georgia’s major 2025 expansion (HB 398, eff. July 1, 2025) which made Georgia one of the most permissive cottage food states. The prior tier of ‘Okay’ and \$100,000 registration requirement are now replaced by a no-fee, no-license framework. Interstate sales are now allowed – unusual nationally. A food safety course is recommended by GDA for operators. Private water users must conduct annual coliform tests.

---

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fultoncountyga.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/fulton-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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

---