

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Putnam County

Georgia · Eatonton · FIPS 13237 · Population 21,869 ·  
Crosodo Index #2721\*

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

2026-05-06

**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: PUTNAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2721\* · FIPS 13237 · Eatonton

# Putnam County

Population 21,869 · 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): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (Putnam County requires a Home Occupation Permit (\$83 fee) from Planning & Development for home-based businesses. Application requires letter of intent and E-Verify affidavit. Contact: 706-485-2776, 117 Putnam Drive Suite B, Eatonton GA 31024.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Georgia HB 398 (effective July 1, 2025): no license or fee required, complaint-based inspections only, interstate sales allowed, all sales channels permitted. Food handler certification required. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit pet restriction in Georgia HB 398 cottage food law.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Private water source requires annual coliform testing.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler certification required, covering handwashing and hygiene.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only under Georgia HB 398 (eff. July 2025). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Yes — Putnam County requires a Home Occupation Permit (\$83 fee) from Planning & Development for home-based businesses. Application requires letter of intent and E-Verify affidavit. Contact: 706-485-2776, 117 Putnam Drive Suite B, Eatonton GA 31024.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Georgia HB 398 allows all sales channels including direct from home, online, through retailers, restaurants, wholesalers, and interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Georgia HB 398. Home occupation zoning may restrict non-resident employees.

### Relevant county code

O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq. (HB 398, eff. July 2025)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Georgia state baseline applies with July 2025 HB 398 expansion. Putnam County has a confirmed home occupation permit process through Planning & Development. Fee is \$83. Contact: 117 Putnam Drive Suite B, Eatonton GA 31024, phone 706-485-2776. Georgia HB 398 (July 2025) applies at state level.

---

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.putnamcountyga.us/planning>

<https://www.putnamcountyga.us>

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

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

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

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

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

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

---