

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Whitfield County

Georgia · Dalton · FIPS 13313 · Population 103,033 · Crosodo Index #2269\*

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: WHITFIELD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2269\* · FIPS 13313 · Dalton

# Whitfield County

Population 103,033 · 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 (Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Private water source requires annual coliform testing.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Whitfield County and the City of Dalton may have home occupation zoning requirements. Dalton is known as the 'Carpet Capital of the World.' No specific Whitfield County cottage food ordinance identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.)

### Home kitchen rules

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>       | Yes — Since July 2025 (HB 398), Georgia allows almost any non-potentially hazardous food. No license or fee required. Food handler certification required. Complaint-based inspections only. Interstate sales now allowed. Wholesale, retail, online, and restaurant sales permitted. Private water source requires annual coliform testing. |
| <b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b> | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>           | No specific state prohibition, but standard sanitation practices apply.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>WATER SUPPLY</b>               | Private water source requires annual coliform testing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>HANDWASHING</b>                | Standard food safety handwashing practices required per food handler certification.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>FOOD STORAGE</b>               | Non-potentially hazardous, non-TCS foods only. Perishable baked goods, fruit butters, low-acid canned foods, and meat jerkies prohibited.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

### Inspection & permitting

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>    | Upon-complaint — Complaint-based only per O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b> | Conditional — Whitfield County and the City of Dalton may have home occupation zoning requirements. Dalton is known as the 'Carpet Capital of the World.' No specific Whitfield County cottage food ordinance identified. |
| <b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b> | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

### Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                               |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                       |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Interstate and in-state sales permitted. Wholesale, retail, online, and direct-to-consumer sales all allowed under the 2025 law. Restaurant sales also permitted. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state statute.                                                                                                                                   |

### Relevant county code

No specific Whitfield County code section identified. State law governs: O.C.G.A. §26-2-470 et seq.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Whitfield County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Georgia’s 2025 HB 398 dramatically expanded cottage food rules. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/whitfield-county-discuss>

## State context — Georgia cottage food law

Whitfield 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.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>STATUTE</b><br/>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><br/>—</p>                      |
| <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b><br/>No</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b><br/>Yes (specific course)</p> |
| <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b><br/>Upon-complaint</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b><br/>No</p>                    |
| <p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b><br/>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> |                                                           |

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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