

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Baltimore County

Maryland · Towson · FIPS 24005 · Population 850,737 ·  
Crosodo Index #1694\*

## STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; annual cap \$50,000

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

## 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.

MARYLAND: BALTIMORE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1694\* · FIPS 24005 · Towson

# Baltimore County

Population 850,737 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; annual cap \$50,000 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (State baseline applies. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual cap \$50,000. Cottage food businesses must comply with applicable county and municipal laws. Contact Baltimore County zoning/permits.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Baltimore County has home occupation permit requirements for home-based businesses. Contact Baltimore County Office of Permits, Approvals and Inspections (PAI) or the Zoning Review Division. Maryland cottage food guidelines state: cottage food businesses must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Baltimore County Health Department may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — State baseline applies. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual cap \$50,000. Cottage food businesses must comply with applicable county and municipal laws. Contact Baltimore County zoning/permits.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; state baseline
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard sanitation required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Standard food storage per MDH guidelines

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Baltimore County Health Department may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Baltimore County has home occupation permit requirements for home-based businesses. Contact Baltimore County Office of Permits, Approvals and Inspections (PAI) or the Zoning Review Division. Maryland cottage food guidelines state: cottage food businesses must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Farmers markets, fairs, festivals, customer pickup from home, retail stores (up to 50% of sales), and personal/mail delivery within Maryland. \$50,000 annual cap. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

### Relevant county code

COMAR 10.15.03.27; Baltimore County Zoning Regulations for home occupations

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Baltimore County follows Maryland state baseline. The 2025 MDH guidelines explicitly state cottage food businesses must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws. Baltimore County has separate county government from Baltimore City (an independent city). No Baltimore County-specific cottage food ordinance beyond state rules was found. County zoning/permits office should be consulted for home occupation requirements.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/health>

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/permits>

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov>

[https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Updated\\_CF\\_Guidelines\\_2025.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Updated_CF_Guidelines_2025.pdf)

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Baltimore County	Anne Arundel County	Baltimore city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; general sanitation standards
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Farmers markets, fairs, festivals, customer pickup from home, retail stores (up to 50% of sales), and personal/mail delivery within Marylan...	Direct-to-consumer sales: home, farmers markets, public events, personal delivery, mail order within Maryland. Sales to retail stores requi...	Direct-to-consumer sales: home, farmers markets, public events, personal delivery, mail order within Maryland. Sales to retail stores requi...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual cap \$50,000. Cottage food businesses must comply with applicable count...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. MDH review required for sales at retail stores (Class B equivalent); ...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. \$50,000 annual gross sales cap. Must comply with all applicable city laws and ordinances. Baltimore C...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per MDH guidelines	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods
POPULATION	850,737	588,109	584,548

## State context — Maryland cottage food law

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

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<b>STATUTE</b> MD COMAR 10.15.03.27	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 50000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Depends	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Recommended
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> No
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> Limited (see notes) — Sales at retail food stores (indirect) are allowed but require prior submission of labels and documentation of ANSI-accredited food safety course completion to the Maryland Department of Health before any retail sales can commence. The Department must notify the producer in writing that requirements are met before retail sales begin.	

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

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/baltimore-county-discuss>

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