

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Calvert County

Maryland · Prince Frederick · FIPS 24009 · Population  
93,244 · Crosodo Index #1599\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE
MD COMAR 10.15.03.27	Good	50000	HIGH

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: CALVERT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1599\* · FIPS 24009 · Prince Frederick

# Calvert County

Population 93,244 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **HIGH**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Maryland cottage food law (COMAR 10.15.03.27): \$50,000 annual sales cap. No routine inspection (complaint-based only). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food safety training recommended. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters, dry goods, snacks, and other non-PHF foods produced by licensed entity. Prohibited: PHF foods requiring refrigeration, all acidified/pickled products (pickles, salsa, pepper jelly, mustard, BBQ sauce), fermented foods, garlic/vegetables in oil, dairy, meats.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific restriction under Maryland cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Calvert County has a Home Occupation permit process through Planning & Zoning ([www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation](http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation)). Operators should review county home occupation permit requirements before beginning cottage food sales. Calvert County Planning & Zoning administers home occupation permits.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Maryland Department of Health may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Maryland cottage food law (COMAR 10.15.03.27): \$50,000 annual sales cap. No routine inspection (complaint-based only). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food safety training recommended. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters, dry goods, snacks, and other non-PHF foods produced by licensed entity. Prohibited: PHF foods requiring refrigeration, all acidified/pickled products (pickles, salsa, pepper jelly, mustard, BBQ sauce), fermented foods, garlic/vegetables in oil, dairy, meats.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**

No

**PET RESTRICTIONS**

No specific restriction under Maryland cottage food law.

**WATER SUPPLY**

No specific requirement for home operations under standard COMAR rules.

**HANDWASHING**

Food safety training recommended; no mandatory statutory requirement.

**FOOD STORAGE**

Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only. Prohibited: acidified foods, fermented foods, TCS foods.

## Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**

Upon-complaint — Maryland Department of Health may inspect upon consumer complaint.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**

Conditional — Calvert County has a Home Occupation permit process through Planning & Zoning ([www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation](http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation)). Operators should review county home occupation permit requirements before beginning cottage food sales. Calvert County Planning & Zoning administers home occupation permits.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**

Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales. Retail stores allowed with optional registration. Online/mail order within Maryland. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated in COMAR 10.15.03.27.

### Relevant county code

Calvert County Home Occupation permit (Planning & Zoning); [calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation](https://calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Calvert County has a confirmed Home Occupation permit process at [calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation](https://calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation) (confirmed via Exa search). Calvert County also has a Licensing & Permits page at [calvertcountymd.gov/3365/Licensing-Permits](https://calvertcountymd.gov/3365/Licensing-Permits). Maryland’s cottage food rules were last amended November 2024 (emergency rule). The prohibition on acidified/fermented/pickled products is a notable restriction — Maryland prohibits salsa, pepper jelly, BBQ sauce, etc. Calvert County is in Southern Maryland (Chesapeake Bay region).

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation>

<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov>

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

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

<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/502/Home-Occupation>

<http://calvertcountymd.gov/3365/Licensing-Permits>

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

## State context — Maryland cottage food law

Calvert 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.

---

<p><b>STATUTE</b> MD COMAR 10.15.03.27</p> <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Depends</p> <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint</p> <p><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.</p>	<p><b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 50000</p> <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Recommended</p> <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> No</p>
---	---

---

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/>

---

## Questions?

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

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

---