

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Carroll County

Maryland · Westminster · FIPS 24013 · Population 173,225 ·
Crosodo Index #2577*

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: CARROLL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2577* · FIPS 24013 · Westminster

Carroll County

Population 173,225 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented foods. Inspections upon complaint only. Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food handler cert recommended; required if selling at retail stores.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Carroll County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 158, approved December 2021) defines Home Occupation as accessory use in residential zones — max 500 sq ft, no retail sales from premises, no significant nonresidential traffic, no exterior indicators. Cottage Industry (manufacturing/assembly by residents) is a separate category requiring Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing. Home occupation requires Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing in residential zones. Carroll County zoning allows online/internet-based sales from home occupation. Westminster city has its own zoning division for properties within city limits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon consumer complaint or illness report.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented foods. Inspections upon complaint only. Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores. Food handler cert recommended; required if selling at retail stores.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per MDH cottage food guidelines.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated products allowed.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon consumer complaint or illness report.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Carroll County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 158, approved December 2021) defines Home Occupation as accessory use in residential zones — max 500 sq ft, no retail sales from premises, no significant nonresidential traffic, no exterior indicators. Cottage Industry (manufacturing/assembly by residents) is a separate category requiring Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing. Home occupation requires Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing in residential zones. Carroll County zoning allows online/internet-based sales from home occupation. Westminster city has its own zoning division for properties within city limits.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales at home (limited customer visits per zoning), online within Maryland, and limited indirect sales to retail stores with ANSI food safety training. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Home Occupation: residents only (no retail sales from premises). Cottage Industry: up to 2 nonresident employees.

Relevant county code

Carroll County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 158 (Home Occupation, Cottage Industry); MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

RESEARCH NOTES

Carroll County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 158 directly retrieved from carrollcountymd.gov (approved December 2, 2021). Distinguishes Home Occupation (residents only, no retail, up to 500 sq ft, internet sales allowed) from Cottage Industry (up to 2 nonresident employees, manufactured goods). Both require Zoning Administrator approval after public hearing. Maryland DOH FAQ (September 2025) confirms no state license required but local rules may vary. Westminster city has separate zoning from county. Maryland prohibits acidified foods under the standard cottage food framework.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov>

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

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/media/15330/chapter-158-bcc-approved-december-2-2021.pdf>

[https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Copy%20of%20CF%20FAQs%20Updated%20Revised_September_2025_FINAL_SBed09242025.docx%20\(1\).pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Documents/Copy%20of%20CF%20FAQs%20Updated%20Revised_September_2025_FINAL_SBed09242025.docx%20(1).pdf)

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Carroll County	Frederick County	Howard County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; MDH guidelines address sanitation standards.	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	Standard sanitation applies; no specific state pet rule
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales at home (limited customer visits per zoning), online within Maryland, and limited indirect sales to retail stores with ANSI fo...	Direct sales to end consumers; indirect sales (retail stores) allowed with MDH ID number and food handler certification. No wholesale via b...	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events, online (Maryland only); wholesale to grocers requires MDH compliance letter; no out-of...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual revenue cap \$50,000. Non-potentially hazardous foods only — no acidified foods, pickles, salsas, ketchup, mustard, or fermented food...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optiona...	Non-TCS non-perishable foods only; \$50,000 annual gross sales cap; labeling required; MDH compliance letter required for wholesale/grocery ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable storage; no refrigerated products allowed.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	173,225	273,829	332,011

State context — Maryland cottage food law

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

Questions?

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

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