

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cecil County

Maryland · Elkton · FIPS 24015 · Population 103,876 ·
Crosodo Index #1756*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE
MD COMAR 10.15.03.27	Good	50000	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: CECIL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1756* · FIPS 24015 · Elkton

Cecil County

Population 103,876 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods (non-refrigerated), non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), and certain snacks. Annual sales cap of \$50,000. Food handler cert recommended for retail store channel only. Complaint-based inspections. Registration (free online ID number) optional unless selling at retail stores.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but standard sanitation applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Cecil County and Elkton may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Cecil County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state residential kitchen framework.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint-based inspections only. No routine kitchen inspection for cottage food operations (separate from the pre-operational inspection required for formal Residential Kitchen Permit if seeking retail channel).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods (non-refrigerated), non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), and certain snacks. Annual sales cap of \$50,000. Food handler cert recommended for retail store channel only. Complaint-based inspections. Registration (free online ID number) optional unless selling at retail stores.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement, though private well and septic may have additional testing requirements.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required. Food handler cert recommended (required for retail channel).
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. Prohibited: meringue/cheesecake/cream/custard pies, baked goods with refrigerated cream cheese or buttercream icing, low-acid canned foods, acidified foods/pickled products (pickles, salsa, pepper jelly, mustard, BBQ sauce), garlic/vegetables in oil, raw sprouts, fish, shellfish, meat, poultry, milk/dairy products, beverages, fermented foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint-based inspections only. No routine kitchen inspection for cottage food operations (separate from the pre-operational inspection required for formal Residential Kitchen Permit if seeking retail channel).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Cecil County and Elkton may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Cecil County cottage food ordinance identified beyond the state residential kitchen framework.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Retail store sales require free optional registration and food handler cert. Online sales and delivery permitted within Maryland. \$50,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

No specific Cecil County code section identified. State law governs: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27.

RESEARCH NOTES

Cecil County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Maryland’s \$50,000 cap is confirmed from COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1). Cecil County is in the northeastern corner of Maryland near Delaware. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>
<https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cecil County	Harford County	Kent County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations, but standard sanitation applies.	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Retail store sales require free optional registration and food handler cert. Online s...	Direct and some indirect sales (retail) allowed; retail store sales require food handler certification and MDH ID number. No wholesale via ...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods (non-refrigerated), non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Optional free MDH ID number (required only if se...	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. Prohibited: meringue/cheesecake/cream/custard pies, baked goods with refrigerated cream cheese or buttercream icing, lo...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; extensive prohibited list including pickles, salsas, acidified foods, dairy, meat	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.
POPULATION	103,876	261,059	19,289

State context — Maryland cottage food law

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

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