

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Frederick County

Maryland · Frederick · FIPS 24021 · Population 273,829 ·
Crosodo Index #2567*

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: FREDERICK COUNTY

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Frederick County

Population 273,829 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optional free ID number from MDH (required only if selling through retail stores). Frederick County Health Department has a dedicated Cottage Food Business page. Home occupation permit required for zoning compliance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Frederick County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 1-19) requires home occupation permit for residential-zone businesses. Maryland is a Dillon’s Rule state — municipalities need specific zoning authority. Home occupation must be secondary to residential use; no external signage, limited employees, limited customer visits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Complaint or foodborne illness investigation)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optional free ID number from MDH (required only if selling through retail stores). Frederick County Health Department has a dedicated Cottage Food Business page. Home occupation permit required for zoning compliance.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment
WATER SUPPLY	Public water or private well; private well water testing required
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state sanitation standards
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Complaint or foodborne illness investigation
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Frederick County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 1-19) requires home occupation permit for residential-zone businesses. Maryland is a Dillon’s Rule state — municipalities need specific zoning authority. Home occupation must be secondary to residential use; no external signage, limited employees, limited customer visits.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to end consumers; indirect sales (retail stores) allowed with MDH ID number and food handler certification. No wholesale via brokers. Sales must remain within Maryland.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rules; home occupation ordinance limits non-resident employees

Relevant county code

Frederick County Code Ch. 1-19 (Zoning Ordinance), §1-19-8.240 (Accessory Uses); health.frederickcountymd.gov/681/Cottage-Food-Business

RESEARCH NOTES

Frederick County Health Department has a dedicated Cottage Food Business page (health.frederickcountymd.gov/681) confirming program exists at county level and follows Maryland state rules. County zoning bill document (Bill No. 23-21) confirmed the home occupation provisions in §1-19-8.240 of the Frederick County Zoning Ordinance. CityRuleLookup confirms home occupation permit required, business license required, and \$50K MD state cap applies. Maryland state COMAR 10.15.03.27 is the operative regulation. Confidence high due to specific county health department URL found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/681/Cottage-Food-Business>
- <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov>
- <https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/681/Cottage-Food-Business>
- <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>
- <https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/zoning/frederick-county-md>

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

State context — Maryland cottage food law

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

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