

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Garrett County

Maryland · Oakland · FIPS 24023 · Population 28,393 ·
Crosodo Index #2448*

| STATE BASELINE | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 | Good | 50000 | MEDIUM |

LAST VERIFIED
2026-05-06

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: GARRETT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2448* · FIPS 24023 · Oakland

Garrett County

Population 28,393 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws. Sales allowed directly to consumers (from home, farmers markets, public events, personal delivery, mail delivery) and to retail food stores (with prior MDH review and written approval). Interstate sales prohibited.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Garrett County (western Maryland mountains) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal laws per Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1(e). Contact Garrett County planning for home occupation requirements. The county is rural and mountainous; many operations may be on farm properties eligible for on-farm home processing license for additional products. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond state mandate.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (No routine pre-operational inspection required for standard direct-to-consumer sales. MDH may inspect upon complaint. Retail store sales require MDH plan review and written approval.)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws. Sales allowed directly to consumers (from home, farmers markets, public events, personal delivery, mail delivery) and to retail food stores (with prior MDH review and written approval). Interstate sales prohibited. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas. |
| WATER SUPPLY | Potable water required. Private well users may face additional requirements. |
| HANDWASHING | Required per Maryland food safety standards. |
| FOOD STORAGE | Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only. |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint — No routine pre-operational inspection required for standard direct-to-consumer sales. MDH may inspect upon complaint. Retail store sales require MDH plan review and written approval. |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — Garrett County (western Maryland mountains) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal laws per Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1(e). Contact Garrett County planning for home occupation requirements. The county is rural and mountainous; many operations may be on farm properties eligible for on-farm home processing license for additional products. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond state mandate. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval. Farmers operating on agriculturally zoned land may be eligible for an on-farm home processing license for products not allowed under standard cottage food. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Residential kitchen framework; outside employees not contemplated. |

Relevant county code

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1; Garrett County zoning ordinance.

RESEARCH NOTES

Maryland state baseline applied: COMAR 10.15.03.27, \$50,000 cap, must comply with county/municipal laws. Garrett County is Maryland’s westernmost, most rural county in the Appalachian Mountains. The MDH guidelines note that farm owners on agriculturally zoned land may qualify for on-farm home processing licenses. No Garrett County-specific cottage food ordinance identified; state baseline governs. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCS/pages/cottagefoods.aspx>

https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCS/Documents/Updated_CF_Guidelines_2025.pdf

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Garrett County | Allegany County | Grant County |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas. | No pets in kitchen during production (standard health code practice) | No specific WV state rule on pets in home kitchens for cottage food; standard good manufacturing practice recommends exclusion during produ... |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint | Upon-complaint |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes | Yes | Conditional |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional | Conditional | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval. Farmers operating on agriculturally zoned land may be el... | Limited indirect sales at markets and events; direct delivery permitted | Direct to consumer sales permitted under WV law. Customer pickup at home is generally allowed. Delivery also allowed. All sales must remain... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies | Varies | Conditional |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies | Varies | No |
| RESTRICTIONS | Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal... | Annual sales cap \$50,000. Food handler certification recommended but not strictly required. Inspection upon complaint only. Registration re... | Nonpotentially hazardous cottage foods fully exempt from licensing, permitting, and inspection under WV Code §19-40-6. Potentially hazardou... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only. | Non-PHF shelf-stable products; appropriate storage required | Foods must remain nonpotentially hazardous (shelf-stable); proper storage to prevent contamination recommended. |
| POPULATION | 28,856 | 68,161 | 11,726 |

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Garrett 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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|---|---|
| <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 Garrett County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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