

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Montgomery County

Maryland · Rockville · FIPS 24031 · Population 1,056,910 ·
Crosodo Index #1380*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

CONFIDENCE

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Montgomery County, Maryland — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

State baseline applies

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Maryland cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Maryland home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Maryland label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MARYLAND: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1380* · FIPS 24031 · Rockville

Montgomery County

Population 1,056,910 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **HIGH****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Montgomery County follows Maryland state baseline for cottage food (COMAR 10.15.03.27). The state \$50,000 annual cap applies. Montgomery County adds a home occupation permit requirement: home-based businesses generating more than 5 visits per week or employing a non-resident must register with Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS). Cottage food operations requiring more than 5 customer visits/week would trigger this requirement.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Montgomery County DPS requires registration for home-based businesses generating more than 5 visits/week or employing a non-resident. Most cottage food operations (typically low-traffic) would not trigger this requirement. If triggered: submit paper application to DPS; provide site plan, floor plan, and parking photos; home occupation area limited to 33% of floor area. Certificate is non-renewable and valid while business operates at that address.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State: inspection upon complaint. County DPS: zoning inspection required if home occupation permit obtained. Home occupation area limited to 33% of total dwelling floor area.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Montgomery County follows Maryland state baseline for cottage food (COMAR 10.15.03.27). The state \$50,000 annual cap applies. Montgomery County adds a home occupation permit requirement: home-based businesses generating more than 5 visits per week or employing a non-resident must register with Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS). Cottage food operations requiring more than 5 customer visits/week would trigger this requirement.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline applies
HANDWASHING	State baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State: inspection upon complaint. County DPS: zoning inspection required if home occupation permit obtained. Home occupation area limited to 33% of total dwelling floor area.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Montgomery County DPS requires registration for home-based businesses generating more than 5 visits/week or employing a non-resident. Most cottage food operations (typically low-traffic) would not trigger this requirement. If triggered: submit paper application to DPS; provide site plan, floor plan, and parking photos; home occupation area limited to 33% of floor area. Certificate is non-renewable and valid while business operates at that address.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State baseline applies: direct-to-consumer sales. Cottage food cannot be sold outside Maryland. Montgomery County requires a Farmer's Market License to sell at county farmers markets. Cottage Food Business is exempt from this license requirement under COMAR 10.15.03.27.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies; county home occupation permit required if employing non-residents

Relevant county code

Montgomery County DPS Home Occupation registration; COMAR 10.15.03.27

RESEARCH NOTES

Montgomery County adds a home occupation registration requirement for high-traffic or non-resident-employee home businesses (more than 5 visits/week threshold). Most cottage food operators would not reach this threshold. Maryland state's \$50,000 annual cap is notably lower than many states. Montgomery County's Farmer's Market License is required for some market vendors, but cottage food businesses are explicitly exempt from this requirement. Cities of Takoma Park, Rockville, and Gaithersburg have their own cottage food rules.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov>

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/departments-permitting-services/all-permits/residential-permits/home-occupation-process>

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/departments-health-human-services/about-us/licensure-regulatory-services/environmental-health-unit/farmers-market-license>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/maryland/montgomery-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Montgomery County	Prince George's County	Howard County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	Standard sanitation applies; no specific state pet rule
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State baseline applies: direct-to-consumer sales. Cottage food cannot be sold outside Maryland. Montgomery County requires a Farmer's Marke...	State baseline: direct-to-consumer at farmers markets, fairs, festivals; customer pickup from home allowed per MDH 2025 guidelines; retail ...	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events, online (Maryland only); wholesale to grocers requires MDH compliance letter; no out-of...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Montgomery County follows Maryland state baseline for cottage food (COMAR 10.15.03.27). The state \$50,000 annual cap applies. Montgomery Co...	Prince George's County explicitly allows cottage food production at home for sale at farmers markets and temporary events only. County zoni...	Non-TCS non-perishable foods only; \$50,000 annual gross sales cap; labeling required; MDH compliance letter required for wholesale/ grocery ...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Standard food storage per COMAR 10.15.03; no additional county-specific requirements found	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	1,056,910	957,189	332,011

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Montgomery 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.

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

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Maryland cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/maryland.

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 about Montgomery County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/maryland/montgomery-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Montgomery County, Maryland. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/maryland/montgomery-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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