

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Somerset County

Maryland · Princess Anne · FIPS 24039 · Population 25,241 ·  
Crosodo Index #2446\*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

CONFIDENCE

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.

## How to start — 60-second path

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

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

### STATE SALES CAP

**50000**

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

### INSPECTION

**Upon-complaint**

### PETS

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

### 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: SOMERSET COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2446\* · FIPS 24039 · Princess Anne

## Somerset County

Population 25,241 · 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 (Somerset County (Eastern Shore) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal laws per Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1(e). Contact Somerset County for home occupation permit requirements. 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.)

## 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.

## 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 &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — No routine pre-operational inspection required for standard direct-to-consumer sales. MDH may inspect upon complaint.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Somerset County (Eastern Shore) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal laws per Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1(e). Contact Somerset County for home occupation permit requirements. 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. |
| 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; Somerset County zoning ordinance.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Maryland state baseline applied: COMAR 10.15.03.27, \$50,000 cap, must comply with county/municipal laws. Somerset County is a small, rural Eastern Shore county with high poverty rates. No Somerset County-specific cottage food ordinance identified; state baseline governs. Confidence medium.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.somersetcounty.gov>

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

<http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/cottagefood/Maryland.pdf>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/maryland/somerset-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/somerset-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Somerset County                                                                                                                                 | Dorchester County                                                                                                                               | St. Mary's 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.                                               | Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.                                               | No specific state restriction; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.                                                                 |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval.                                                              | Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval. Food safety training recommended but not required for st...  | Maryland allows direct sales and limited indirect retail sales (requires food handler cert for retail channel). Online and mail order prohi...  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal... | Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal... | Maryland allows non-PHF cottage foods from residential kitchen. \$50,000 annual revenue cap. Registration (free online ID) optional unless s... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.                            | Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.                            | Non-PHF shelf-stable products only. No refrigerated or TCS foods. Acidified foods, fermented foods, pickles, salsas prohibited. Separate On...  |
| POPULATION                 | 24,672                                                                                                                                          | 32,557                                                                                                                                          | 113,814                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Maryland cottage food law

Somerset 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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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 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. |                   |

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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](https://crosodo.com/states/maryland).

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### 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/>

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**Questions about Somerset 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/somerset-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/somerset-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

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

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/somerset-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/somerset-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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