

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Talbot County

Maryland · Easton · FIPS 24041 · Population 38,244 ·  
Crosodo Index #2444\*

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: TALBOT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2444\* · FIPS 24041 · Easton

# Talbot County

Population 38,244 · 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 (Talbot County (Eastern Shore) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal laws per Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1(e). Contact Talbot County Department of Planning and Zoning for home occupation requirements. Talbot County is a higher-income Eastern Shore county with active zoning. 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

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	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.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required per Maryland food safety standards.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — No routine pre-operational inspection required for standard direct-to-consumer sales. MDH may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Talbot County (Eastern Shore) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal laws per Md. Code Health-Gen. §21-330.1(e). Contact Talbot County Department of Planning and Zoning for home occupation requirements. Talbot County is a higher-income Eastern Shore county with active zoning. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond state mandate.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	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; Talbot County zoning ordinance.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Maryland state baseline applied: COMAR 10.15.03.27, \$50,000 cap, must comply with county/municipal laws. Talbot County is a prosperous Eastern Shore county centered on Easton. No Talbot County-specific cottage food ordinance identified; state baseline governs. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCS/pages/cottagefoods.aspx>
- <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/cottagefood/Maryland.pdf>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Talbot County	Caroline County	Dorchester 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.	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	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...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval. Food safety training recommended but not required for st...
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...	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...
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.	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.
POPULATION	37,663	33,320	32,557

## State context — Maryland cottage food law

Talbot 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><b>STATUTE</b> MD COMAR 10.15.03.27</p> <p><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Depends</p> <p><b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint</p> <p><b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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><b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 50000</p> <p><b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Recommended</p> <p><b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> No</p>
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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Maryland cottage food law report](#).

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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?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Talbot County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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