

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Kent County

Michigan · Grand Rapids · FIPS 26081 · Population 657,321 ·
Crosodo Index #2105*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
MCL §289.4102	Great	50000	MEDIUM	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.

MICHIGAN: KENT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2105* · FIPS 26081 · Grand Rapids

Kent County

Population 657,321 · State baseline: MCL \$289.4102 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be the kitchen of the person’s primary domestic residence (single-family home). Second homes, vacation homes, motor homes do not qualify. Products must be stored at primary residence. Only single-family domestic residence qualifies.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction found; general sanitation standards apply

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Michigan cottage food law exempts from state licensing/inspection but expressly states ‘contact your local unit of government to determine if there are local regulations that will affect your business.’ City of Grand Rapids has a tiered Home Occupation license system (Class A, B, C). Grand Rapids Class C is for lodging; Class A/B likely required for food production. Kent County townships may have separate zoning requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (MDARD will inspect upon complaint or foodborne illness investigation; may seize adulterated product, order label corrections, require discontinuation of unapproved products)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must be the kitchen of the person’s primary domestic residence (single-family home). Second homes, vacation homes, motor homes do not qualify. Products must be stored at primary residence. Only single-family domestic residence qualifies.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction found; general sanitation standards apply
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal or private supply; no specific state-level water testing requirement for cottage food operations
HANDWASHING	Implied by Michigan Food Law sanitation standards; no specific cottage food provision
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored at primary residence following safe good handling guidelines to prevent adulteration (insects, chemicals, water damage, insanitary conditions)

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — MDARD will inspect upon complaint or foodborne illness investigation; may seize adulterated product, order label corrections, require discontinuation of unapproved products
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Michigan cottage food law exempts from state licensing/inspection but expressly states ‘contact your local unit of government to determine if there are local regulations that will affect your business.’ City of Grand Rapids has a tiered Home Occupation license system (Class A, B, C). Grand Rapids Class C is for lodging; Class A/B likely required for food production. Kent County townships may have separate zoning requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within Michigan only via farmers markets, craft shows, roadside stands, internet/mail order, or third-party delivery platform if direct interaction with operator occurs before sale. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; cottage food law is for home kitchen operations — no employee provisions in state law

Relevant county code

No county-level code for cottage food found. State: MCL §289.4102. City of Grand Rapids: Home Occupation License Ordinance.

RESEARCH NOTES

Michigan’s Cottage Food Law (MCL §289.4102) is a Great-tier state law: no registration, no inspection, no sales cap at state level, direct sales within Michigan only, no license required from MDARD. Must be primary residence. State law does not preempt local ordinances; operators must check local government rules. In Grand Rapids, Home Occupation licenses exist but are structured for different business types; food production home occupation likely falls under Class A or B (not the Class C lodging license found in search). Kent County townships (Kentwood, Wyoming, Walker, etc.) each have separate zoning codes. Annual sales cap of \$25,000 noted on Kentwood city page — this may be an outdated figure from prior law; current state law has no cap. Confidence medium: state law confirmed from official MDARD page; local zoning details not fully confirmed for Kent County unincorporated areas.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.accesskent.com>

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/michigan-cottage-foods-information>

<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/departments/clerks-office/business-licenses/apply-for-home-occupation-licenses/home-occupation-class-c-license/>

https://www.kentwood.us/michigan_s_cottage_food_law.php

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

State context — Michigan cottage food law

Kent County's rules sit on top of Michigan's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
MCL §289.4102	50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are prohibited. Online sales, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales (e.g., DoorDash) are allowed in-state only, but require the producer to offer the customer an opportunity to directly interact (face-to-face or virtually) before purchase. A separate \$75,000 cap applies if all products are priced at \$250 or more per item. Honey and maple syrup have a separate exemption permitting indirect retail sales up to \$15,000/year.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Michigan cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/michigan/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/kent-county-discuss>
