

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ramsey County

Minnesota · Saint Paul · FIPS 27123 · Population 547,202 ·
Crosodo Index #552*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Minn. Stat. §28A.152	Great	78000	HIGH	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.

MINNESOTA: RAMSEY COUNTY

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Ramsey County

Population 547,202 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State registration required (\$50 if sales exceed \$7,665; free otherwise). Accredited food safety training required. \$78,000 annual sales cap. Foods must be non-potentially hazardous and on approved list. Must not operate if local ordinance restricts production from home.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Minnesota MDA guidance explicitly states: if local jurisdiction (city or county) has an ordinance restricting production/sale from home, you cannot produce/sell and must use a commercial kitchen. City of Saint Paul Home Occupation Regulations require a Home Occupation Affidavit. Saint Paul rules: conducted entirely within main building; no general retail/wholesale/commercial food service requiring license; max 2-3 persons depending on dwelling size; no exterior storage; one 2 sq ft sign; no excessive odors/noise/traffic. Cottage food production in Saint Paul residential zones appears to be permissible as a home occupation if it does not constitute a 'commercial food service requiring a license.' Contact Saint Paul Zoning at 651-266-9008.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection required; MDA may act upon complaint)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State registration required (\$50 if sales exceed \$7,665; free otherwise). Accredited food safety training required. \$78,000 annual sales cap. Foods must be non-potentially hazardous and on approved list. Must not operate if local ordinance restricts production from home.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement in state cottage food law
HANDWASHING	Implied by food safety training requirement
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection required; MDA may act upon complaint
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Minnesota MDA guidance explicitly states: if local jurisdiction (city or county) has an ordinance restricting production/sale from home, you cannot produce/sell and must use a commercial kitchen. City of Saint Paul Home Occupation Regulations require a Home Occupation Affidavit. Saint Paul rules: conducted entirely within main building; no general retail/wholesale/commercial food service requiring license; max 2-3 persons depending on dwelling size; no exterior storage; one 2 sq ft sign; no excessive odors/noise/traffic. Cottage food production in Saint Paul residential zones appears to be permissible as a home occupation if it does not constitute a 'commercial food service requiring a license.' Contact Saint Paul Zoning at 651-266-9008.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within Minnesota: farmers markets, community events, home sales (if local zoning allows), online within Minnesota. \$78,000 annual cap. Registration required with MDA before selling. Unattended home stands allowed if local zoning permits.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Saint Paul: max 2 persons for dwellings under 4,000 sq ft; max 3 persons for 4,000+ sq ft (at least one must be principal resident)

Relevant county code

City of Saint Paul Home Occupation Regulations (Zoning Code). State: Minn. Stat. §28A.152.

RESEARCH NOTES

Minnesota Great-tier state. MDA guidance confirms local ordinances may restrict home production. Saint Paul Home Occupation Regulations PDF retrieved directly from stpaul.gov. Saint Paul rules: home occupation must be in main building, no commercial food service requiring license, max 2-3 persons, one 2 sq ft sign, no exterior storage, Home Occupation Affidavit required. Cottage food production (non-licensed home kitchen) may qualify as a home occupation in Saint Paul residential zones. Note 2025 MDA update: effective Aug 1, 2027, \$30/yr fee, shipping within MN allowed. Confidence high: both state MDA guidance and Saint Paul official zoning document retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ramseycounty.us>

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/cottage-food-law-guidance>

<https://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentCenter/Government/Planning%20&%20Economic%20Development/Planning/Zoning%20Committee/Home%20Occupation%20Regulations.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ramsey County	Dakota County	Anoka County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.	No specific state restriction; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales within Minnesota: farmers markets, community events, home sales (if local zoning allows), online within Minnesota. \$78,000 ann...	Direct sales from home (if local ordinance permits), at community events/farmers markets, and online (producer must deliver). Home-canned i...	Direct sales from home (if local ordinance permits), at community events/farmers markets, and online (producer must deliver). Home-canned i...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State registration required (\$50 if sales exceed \$7,665; free otherwise). Accredited food safety training required. \$78,000 annual sales ca...	Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152) allows non-potentially-hazardous foods without a food license, up to \$78,000 gross annual...	Minnesota cottage food law (Minn. Stat. §28A.152) allows non-PHF foods without a food license, up to \$78,000 gross annual sales (2025 infla...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-PHF foods	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. Home-canned items must meet pH 4.6 or lower or water activity 0.85 or less.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. Home-canned items (pH 4.6 or lower or water activity 0.85 or less) also permitted.
POPULATION	547,202	439,179	363,985

State context — Minnesota cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Minn. Stat. §28A.152

ANNUAL SALES CAP

78000

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales are limited to direct-to-consumer channels: community events, farmers markets, from the producer's home, online (in-state delivery by the producer personally or by mail/commercial delivery), and fundraising donations. Restaurants, retail stores, roadside stands, mail order wholesale, and catering are prohibited. All deliveries must be made by the producer personally unless shipped by mail or commercial delivery upon a prior online sale. Home-canned products in the pH/water-activity exemption category (Subd. 1(a)(2)) may not be sold outside of Minnesota.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/28A.152>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>

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

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/minnesota/ramsey-county-discuss>
