

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Warren County

Missouri · Warrenton · FIPS 29219 · Population 38,478 ·  
Crosodo Index #654\*

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STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE
Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298	Great	—	HIGH

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.

MISSOURI: WARREN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #654\* · FIPS 29219 · Warrenton

# Warren County

Population 38,478 · State baseline: Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298 · **HIGH**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs with a \$50,000 annual gross income cap and direct-to-consumer sales only. Internet sales are prohibited under the statute. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). Warren County has a zoning ordinance requiring a home occupation permit (Warren County Code §180-17) for businesses operated in residential dwellings.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (Warren County Code §180-17 requires a home occupation permit (\$100 fee) for businesses operated in a residential dwelling. Conditions: (1) use must be entirely within the dwelling unit, clearly incidental and subordinate to residential use; (2) no more than 25% of floor area used for the home occupation; (3) only family members residing on the premises may be engaged in the occupation; (4) no change in outside appearance except one nonilluminated sign up to 2 sq. ft.; (5) no noisy/odorous equipment detectable outside; (6) no traffic generation exceeding normal residential levels; off-street parking required. Certificate of Zoning application submitted to Warren County Planning and Zoning Department. Unincorporated Warren County does not require a Certificate of Occupancy. Also available: By-Right permit (\$100), Mobile Food Establishment permit (\$50). Cities within Warren County (Warrenton, etc.) have separate rules.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Missouri law expressly bars local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No routine inspections. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.)

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** Yes — Missouri state law (§196.298) permits home kitchen production of nonperishable baked goods, canned jams/jellies, and dried herbs with a \$50,000 annual gross income cap and direct-to-consumer sales only. Internet sales are prohibited under the statute. State law expressly prohibits local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). Warren County has a zoning ordinance requiring a home occupation permit (Warren County Code §180-17) for businesses operated in residential dwellings.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** No

**PET RESTRICTIONS** No explicit state-level pet restriction for cottage food operations under Missouri law. Standard sanitation practices recommended.

**WATER SUPPLY** No specific water testing requirement for Missouri cottage food operations.

**HANDWASHING** Standard handwashing per GMP; no specific statutory requirement for cottage food.

**FOOD STORAGE** Products must be properly stored to prevent contamination. No state-mandated specific storage requirements for cottage food.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Missouri law expressly bars local health departments from regulating cottage food production (§196.298(3)(1)). No routine inspections. State may investigate foodborne illness complaints.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Yes — Warren County Code §180-17 requires a home occupation permit (\$100 fee) for businesses operated in a residential dwelling. Conditions: (1) use must be entirely within the dwelling unit, clearly incidental and subordinate to residential use; (2) no more than 25% of floor area used for the home occupation; (3) only family members residing on the premises may be engaged in the occupation; (4) no change in outside appearance except one nonilluminated sign up to 2 sq. ft.; (5) no noisy/odorous equipment detectable outside; (6) no traffic generation exceeding normal residential levels; off-street parking required. Certificate of Zoning application submitted to Warren County Planning and Zoning Department. Unincorporated Warren County does not require a Certificate of Occupancy. Also available: By-Right permit (\$100), Mobile Food Establishment permit (\$50). Cities within Warren County (Warrenton, etc.) have separate rules.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Yes

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Yes
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Missouri cottage food law allows direct-to-consumer sales from home and at events/ farmers markets. In-state online sales permitted per 2022 amendment (HB 1697). Home pickup and delivery to customers allowed. Warren County zoning conditions limit traffic to normal residential volumes.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Warren County Code §180-17: only family members residing on premises may be engaged in the home occupation (no non-family employees).

### Relevant county code

Warren County Code §180-17 (Home Occupations); Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298

#### RESEARCH NOTES

High confidence: Warren County home occupation permit requirements confirmed via Certificate of Zoning application form ([warrencountysheriff.org/DocumentCenter/View/699/Certificate-of-Zoning](https://warrencountysheriff.org/DocumentCenter/View/699/Certificate-of-Zoning)) which cites Warren County Code §180-17 and lists specific conditions. Planning and Zoning office confirmed active at [warrencountymo.org](https://warrencountymo.org) with 2021 Updated Zoning Codes and 2025/2026 amendments. \$100 permit fee confirmed. Unincorporated county does not require Certificate of Occupancy per county website. Missouri §196.298 state baseline also applies.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://warrencountymo.org/planning-and-zoning/>

<https://warrencountymo.org>

<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

<https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/pdf/home-based-kitchen-food-prod-guidance.pdf>

<https://warrencountymo.org/planning-and-zoning/>

<https://warrencountysheriff.org/DocumentCenter/View/699/Certificate-of-Zoning>

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

## State context — Missouri cottage food law

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

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<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
Mo. Rev. Stat. §196.298	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
No	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	Yes

### INDIRECT SALES

No — Under §196.298, sales must be directly to consumers from the producer's home. Events, farmers markets, restaurants, retail stores, and roadside stands are not permitted under this law. Internet/online sales are allowed but only if both the producer and buyer are located in Missouri. Local health departments are explicitly prohibited from regulating the production of food at cottage food operations. A separate Missouri statute (individual stands law) allows sales at events and roadside stands in counties that have adopted it, permitting most other nonperishable foods.

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=196.298>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/cottagefood.php>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/missouri/warren-county-discuss>

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