

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Gallatin County

Montana · Bozeman · FIPS 30031 · Population 119,685 ·
Crosodo Index #1655*

STATE BASELINE

Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act); no sales cap; registration with local health authority required (standard track); direct sales only

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Freedom	—	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.

How to start — 60-second path

Gallatin County, Montana — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction for cottage food; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Montana 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
- ☐ Montana home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

Open the live county page →

Montana label one-pager →

Local notes & questions →

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MONTANA: GALLATIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1655* · FIPS 30031 · Bozeman

Gallatin County

Population 119,685 · State baseline: Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act); no sales cap; registration with local health authority required (standard track); direct sales only · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (§§50-50-116/117): requires local health authority registration, non-PHF foods, no consignment; (2) Montana Local Food Choice Act (§§50-49-201 et seq.): broad exemption from licensing/inspection for direct producer-to-consumer including potentially hazardous foods. Gallatin County / Bozeman are a fast-growing area with Gallatin City-County Health Department.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction for cottage food; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Gallatin County home occupation permit requirements found specifically for cottage food. Montana Local Food Choice Act (MLFCA) provides broad exemptions. Gallatin County zoning or Bozeman city zoning may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Contact Gallatin County Planning or Bozeman Community Development.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Standard track: inspection upon complaint. MLFCA track: no licensing/inspection required. Complaint-driven investigation by local health authority possible under either.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (§§50-50-116/117): requires local health authority registration, non-PHF foods, no consignment; (2) Montana Local Food Choice Act (§§50-49-201 et seq.): broad exemption from licensing/inspection for direct producer-to-consumer including potentially hazardous foods. Gallatin County / Bozeman are a fast-growing area with Gallatin City-County Health Department.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction for cottage food; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required per Montana Food Code standards.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices; no mandatory certification under either MT track.

FOOD STORAGE

Standard track: non-PHF shelf-stable products. MLFCA track: any homemade food including PHF; producer must inform consumers food is unlicensed/uninspected.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Standard track: inspection upon complaint. MLFCA track: no licensing/inspection required. Complaint-driven investigation by local health authority possible under either.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Gallatin County home occupation permit requirements found specifically for cottage food. Montana Local Food Choice Act (MLFCA) provides broad exemptions. Gallatin County zoning or Bozeman city zoning may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Contact Gallatin County Planning or Bozeman Community Development.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Standard track: direct sales only at farmers markets, events, from home, and other locations; no consignment. MLFCA track: direct producer-to-consumer only, in-state. No retail/wholesale establishment sales without a license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific state limit; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Mont. Code §§50-50-116 / 50-50-117; Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (MT tier Freedom). Montana has both a standard cottage food track and the expansive Local Food Choice Act. Gallatin County (Bozeman) is Montana's fastest-growing county. Missoula County Health Department page showed a 'Cottage Food Operations' section, suggesting local health departments administer the registration. No county-specific URLs provided in input. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.gallatin.mt.gov>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/montana/gallatin-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Gallatin County	Broadwater County	Jefferson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction for cottage food; standard food safety sanitation practices apply.	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.	Not specified in state cottage food law; individual county health departments may have additional requirements.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Standard track: direct sales only at farmers markets, events, from home, and other locations; no consignment. MLFCA track: direct producer...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, ret...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home. Under standard cottage food (§50-50-116), no consignment, ret...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Montana has two tracks: (1) Standard cottage food (§§50-50-116/117): requires local health authority registration, non-PHF foods, no consig...	Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s...	Cottage food operations must register with local health authority under Mont. Code §50-50-117. Non-potentially-hazardous foods only under s...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard track: non-PHF shelf-stable products. MLFCA track: any homemade food including PHF; producer must inform consumers food is unlicen...	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro...	Products must be non-potentially hazardous (standard cottage food track) or properly disclosed as unlicensed/uninspected (MLFCA track). Pro...
POPULATION	119,685	6,977	12,273

State context — Montana cottage food law

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

STATUTE Mont. Code §50-50-116 and §50-50-117 (cottage food); Mont. Code §§50-49-201 et seq. (Local Food Choice Act)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Consignment sales at retail food establishments or through wholesale establishments are explicitly prohibited under §50-50-116(3). The Montana Local Food Choice Act also requires direct producer-to-informed-end-consumer transactions only; retail locations require a wholesale food license.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Montana cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/montana.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0500/chapter_0500/part_0010/section_0160/0500-0500-0010-0160.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcs/foodsafety/cottagefoods>

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

Questions about Gallatin 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/montana/gallatin-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

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

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/montana/gallatin-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise