

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Cuyahoga County

Ohio · Cleveland · FIPS 39035 · Population 1,256,620 ·  
Crosodo Index #778\*

## STATE BASELINE

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20

## STATE TIER

**Good**

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

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.

## OHIO: CUYAHOGA COUNTY

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## Cuyahoga County

Population 1,256,620 · State baseline: O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20 ·

MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Ohio Cottage Food Production Operations exempt from ODA licensing. Home must be primary residence with only one residential stove/oven. Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) provides food safety resources but does not separately license cottage food operations. Local zoning in incorporated cities (Cleveland, Parma, etc.) may have home occupation rules.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (No state requirement for cottage food home occupation permit. OSU Extension notes that cottage food producers should check local zoning regulations for home-based retail sales. Cuyahoga County cities (Cleveland, Parma, Lakewood, etc.) have their own zoning codes. No specific county-level cottage food permit requirement identified.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (ODA has product sampling authority. Cuyahoga County Board of Health may investigate complaints. No routine inspection.)

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Ohio Cottage Food Production Operations exempt from ODA licensing. Home must be primary residence with only one residential stove/oven. Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) provides food safety resources but does not separately license cottage food operations. Local zoning in incorporated cities (Cleveland, Parma, etc.) may have home occupation rules.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline applies
HANDWASHING	State baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies

## Inspection &amp; permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — ODA has product sampling authority. Cuyahoga County Board of Health may investigate complaints. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — No state requirement for cottage food home occupation permit. OSU Extension notes that cottage food producers should check local zoning regulations for home-based retail sales. Cuyahoga County cities (Cleveland, Parma, Lakewood, etc.) have their own zoning codes. No specific county-level cottage food permit requirement identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Cottage food products may only be sold in Ohio. Direct sales, grocery stores, farm markets, and restaurants allowed. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

**Relevant county code**

O.R.C. §3715.021(A); O.A.C. 901:3-20

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Cuyahoga County follows Ohio state baseline. No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. CCBH is the county health board but does not separately administer cottage food permits. Ohio’s unique features: enumerated approved product list (not general non-PHF), retail sales to grocery stores/restaurants allowed, only one residential stove/oven permitted in the home. Products must bear ‘This Product is Home Produced’ in 10-point font.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.ccbh.net>

<https://www.cuyahogacounty.us>

<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/resources/cottage-food>

<https://www.ccbh.net>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cuyahoga County	Summit County	Lorain County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	Ohio Home Bakery Law: pets banned from indoors at all times. Cottage food (basic): no specific pet restriction	No specific state restriction; general sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Conditional	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Cottage food products may only be sold in Ohio. Direct sales, grocery stores, farm markets, and restaurants allowed. No out-of-state sales.	Cottage food and home bakery products may be sold directly from home, online, at farmers markets, community events, grocery stores, and res...	Direct to consumer at home, farmers markets, events; indirect sales to retailers permitted under separate \$300,000 annual cap with addition...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Ohio Cottage Food Production Operations exempt from ODA licensing. Home must be primary residence with only one residential stove/oven. Cuy...	Cottage Food: home must be primary residence with only one stove/oven for domestic use. Home Bakery (broader product license): requires sep...	Non-TCS foods only; \$35,000 annual direct sales cap; no state license or inspection required; labeling required
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Products must be stored at primary residence; standard home kitchen storage	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions
POPULATION	1,256,620	539,361	313,101

## State context — Ohio cottage food law

Cuyahoga County's rules sit on top of Ohio'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>
O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20	—
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
No	No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
No	No
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b>	
Yes — Labeled cottage food products may be sold to or used by retail food establishments and food service operations licensed under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3717. This enables indirect/wholesale sales within Ohio. Products may not be sold outside the state of Ohio.	

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/ohio/cuyahoga-county-discuss>

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