

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hamilton County

Ohio · Cincinnati · FIPS 39061 · Population 827,671 · Crosodo Index #755*

STATE BASELINE

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

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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: HAMILTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #755* · FIPS 39061 · Cincinnati

Hamilton County

Population 827,671 · 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 (No registration required. No sales cap. Approved products only (state OAC 901:3-20-04 list). No reduced oxygen packaging. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Hamilton County includes the City of Cincinnati and other municipalities. Cincinnati has a Home Occupation license requirement for home-based businesses. Contact Cincinnati Development Services or the applicable municipality's planning department. Hamilton County Building & Zoning governs unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No inspection authority for cottage food operations. Ohio Dept. of Agriculture may investigate foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No registration required. No sales cap. Approved products only (state OAC 901:3-20-04 list). No reduced oxygen packaging. Products cannot be sold outside Ohio.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; state baseline
HANDWASHING	No state requirement for food handler certification under cottage food exemption
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices; non-PHF foods only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No inspection authority for cottage food operations. Ohio Dept. of Agriculture may investigate foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Hamilton County includes the City of Cincinnati and other municipalities. Cincinnati has a Home Occupation license requirement for home-based businesses. Contact Cincinnati Development Services or the applicable municipality's planning department. Hamilton County Building & Zoning governs unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and limited indirect sales. Home delivery, farmers markets, events, online all permitted within Ohio. No out-of-state sales. No wholesale restriction explicitly — but approved product list limits apply.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

O.R.C. §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20-04; Hamilton County/Cincinnati municipal zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Hamilton County follows Ohio state baseline for cottage food. Ohio has no registration requirement and no sales cap but uses a specific approved product list. Cincinnati is the largest city in Hamilton County. No Hamilton County-specific cottage food ordinance beyond state law found. Cincinnati municipal code likely has home occupation permit requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/departments-a-f/environmental-services>

<https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/departments-a-f/county-regional-planning>

<https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov>

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

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

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Hamilton 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.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
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.	

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

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/>

Questions?

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

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