

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Columbia County

Oregon · Saint Helens · FIPS 41009 · Population 52,865 ·  
Crosodo Index #682\*

## STATE BASELINE

ORS §616.723 (amended by SB 643, 2023; cap raised to \$50,000)

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

## 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.

OREGON: COLUMBIA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #682\* · FIPS 41009 · Saint Helens

# Columbia County

Population 52,865 · State baseline: ORS §616.723 (amended by SB 643, 2023; cap raised to \$50,000)

· MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods from residential dwelling. Annual cap \$50,000 (CPI-adjusted since SB 643, 2023). Food handler certification (ORS 624.570) required. Broad allowed products: baked goods, coffee beans, teas, popcorn, jams, jellies, honey, syrups, fruit butters, nut mixes, repackaged freeze-dried and dehydrated foods, powdered drink mixes. No routine inspection. No registration required for direct sales; Domestic Kitchen Bakery License (~\$50/yr) available for retail sales.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Pets may not be in food preparation area; presence elsewhere in dwelling is no longer grounds for disqualification (per SB 643).

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (No state registration required for direct sales under ORS §616.723. Columbia County is a suburban/rural county between Portland and the coast. Contact Columbia County government in Saint Helens for local home occupation or zoning permit requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (Oregon Dept. of Agriculture may investigate on complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods from residential dwelling. Annual cap \$50,000 (CPI-adjusted since SB 643, 2023). Food handler certification (ORS 624.570) required. Broad allowed products: baked goods, coffee beans, teas, popcorn, jams, jellies, honey, syrups, fruit butters, nut mixes, repackaged freeze-dried and dehydrated foods, powdered drink mixes. No routine inspection. No registration required for direct sales; Domestic Kitchen Bakery License (~\$50/yr) available for retail sales.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Pets may not be in food preparation area; presence elsewhere in dwelling is no longer grounds for disqualification (per SB 643).
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific requirement; residential dwelling kitchen.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Covered under required food handler certification.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Cannabis-containing foods excluded. No sales to institutions (caterers, schools, day care, hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities, restaurants).

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Oregon Dept. of Agriculture may investigate on complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — No state registration required for direct sales under ORS §616.723. Columbia County is a suburban/rural county between Portland and the coast. Contact Columbia County government in Saint Helens for local home occupation or zoning permit requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer (home, online, mail, events). Sales to retailers permitted with Domestic Kitchen Bakery License. No sales to institutions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in OR statute.

**Relevant county code**

ORS §616.723; no Columbia County-specific ordinance identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Columbia County is north of Portland along the Columbia River. No county-specific cottage food rules found. SB 643 (2023) was a significant expansion: raised cap from \$20,000 to \$50,000, added coffee beans, teas, dehydrated/freeze-dried foods, powdered drink mixes, permitted online/mail/event sales, relaxed pet rules.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/foodsafety/pages/dkb-licensing.aspx>

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

## State context — Oregon cottage food law

Columbia County’s rules sit on top of Oregon’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> ORS §616.723	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 50000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Depends	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> No

**INDIRECT SALES**  
 Limited (see notes) — Direct sales to end users are permitted in any manner including online, mail, and at events. Sales to retailers (including coffee shops but not restaurants) are permitted if the retailer agrees to store/display the foods separately and clearly indicate they are homemade and not prepared in an inspected food establishment. Sales to institutions (restaurants, schools, hospitals, caterers, day care centers, nursing homes, correctional facilities) are prohibited. A Domestic Kitchen Bakery License (~\$50/year) is required for establishments wishing to sell to retailers under licensed status rather than using the residential-dwelling exemption. The department may provide a unique identification number for use on labels. Annual records must be maintained for 3 years.

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

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**STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES**

State statute: [https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors\\_616.706](https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_616.706)

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/foodsafety/pages/dkb-licensing.aspx>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/oregon/columbia-county-discuss>

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