COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Richland County

South Carolina · Columbia · FIPS 45079 · Population 416,161 · Crosodo Index #854*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
S.C. Code §44-1-145	Good	—	MEDIUM	2026-10-06

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Richland County, South Carolina — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?	STATE SALES CAP
Yes	—
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?	ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
Conditional	Yes
INSPECTION	PETS
No	No specific state restriction beyond standard food safety.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- [ ] **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under South Carolina 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
- [ ] South Carolina home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

Open the live county page →

South Carolina label one-pager →

Print labels for your first market →

Local notes & questions →

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

SOUTH CAROLINA: RICHLAND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #854* · FIPS 45079 · Columbia

Richland County

Population 416,161 · State baseline: S.C. Code §44-1-145 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?
Yes (South Carolina cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) allows non-PHF foods produced in primary domestic residence without registration, permit, or inspection. Allowed: baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, and other shelf-stable non-PHF foods. 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order sales. No sales cap. Label must indicate produced in unlicensed home kitchen. Potentially hazardous foods (requiring refrigeration for safety, pH above 5.6 or acidified above 4.6) prohibited unless product assessment conducted.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?
No

PETS ALLOWED?
No specific state restriction beyond standard food safety.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?
Conditional (Richland County has home occupation provisions in its zoning ordinance. Operators in unincorporated Richland County should verify with county planning. Columbia (incorporated) has its own zoning rules. South Carolina cottage food law does not include explicit local preemption; local home occupation compliance required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?
Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?
No (No routine inspection required. SC Department of Agriculture may investigate upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — South Carolina cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) allows non-PHF foods produced in primary domestic residence without registration, permit, or inspection. Allowed: baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, and other shelf-stable non-PHF foods. 2022 amendment (Act No. 208) expanded to allow retail store and grocery store sales, online/mail order sales. No sales cap. Label must indicate produced in unlicensed home kitchen. Potentially hazardous foods (requiring refrigeration for safety, pH above 5.6 or acidified above 4.6) prohibited unless product assessment conducted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction beyond standard food safety.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable products only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection required. SC Department of Agriculture may investigate upon complaint.
LOCAL HEALTH / COUNTY REGISTRATION	No
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Richland County has home occupation provisions in its zoning ordinance. Operators in unincorporated Richland County should verify with county planning. Columbia (incorporated) has its own zoning rules. South Carolina cottage food law does not include explicit local preemption; local home occupation compliance required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (retail stores, grocery stores) permitted since 2022. Online/mail order allowed. Products cannot be resold wholesale to distributors without commercial license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law; local home occupation rules apply.

Relevant county code

S.C. Code §44-1-145 (state cottage food); Richland County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

South Carolina cottage food statute (S.C. Code §44-1-145) confirmed from state baseline. 2022 amendment significantly expanded allowed sales channels. No registration or permit required. Richland County (including Columbia) follows state baseline; no county-specific overrides found. Richland County food safety oversight transferred to SC Department of Agriculture effective July 1, 2024 (from DHEC). Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Richland County local zoning rules not specifically researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.richlandcountysc.gov

https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/

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

Richland County and nearby places

Regulation	Richland County	Lexington County	Sumter County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	**No**	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	**No specific state restriction beyond standard food safety.**	All animals including pets must be excluded from production area during food production	No specific state pet restriction for cottage food operations.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	**No**	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	**Conditional**	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	**Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales (retail stores, grocery stores) permitted since 2022. Online/mail order allowed. Products cannot be r...**	Direct to consumer including online and mail within SC; also to retail stores for resale	Direct-to-consumer and indirect sales permitted. Sales to retail stores and grocery stores allowed (2022 amendment). Online and mail order ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	**Conditional**	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	**Varies**	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	**South Carolina cottage food law (S.C. Code §44-1-145) allows non-PHF foods produced in primary domestic residence without registration, per...**	No domestic activities in kitchen during production; pets excluded; water/sewage must meet state standards; non-TCS foods only	South Carolina allows non-potentially hazardous foods from the kitchen of a primary domestic residence including baked goods, candy, jams, ...
FOOD STORAGE	**Non-PHF shelf-stable products only.**	Stored in sanitary conditions	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Foods with pH above 5.6 (non-acid) or pH above 4.6 (acidified) presumed potentially hazardous and pro...
POPULATION	**416,161**	295,934	105,199

State context — South Carolina cottage food law

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

STATUTE
S.C. Code §44-1-145

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
No

KITCHEN INSPECTION
No

INDIRECT SALES
Yes — Since the 2022 amendment, home-based food operations may sell to retail stores and grocery stores in addition to direct-to-consumer sales including online and mail order. Retail stores that sell home-based food products must post clearly visible signage indicating the products are not subject to commercial food regulations.

ANNUAL SALES CAP
—

FOOD HANDLER CERT
No

DIRECT SALES ONLY
No

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **South Carolina cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/south-carolina.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t44c001.php

State dept cottage food page: https://agriculture.sc.gov/programs-services/cottage-food-operations/

Forrager.com: https://forrager.com/law/south-carolina/

Questions about Richland 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/south-carolina/richland-county-discuss

RESEARCH NOTES

Baker's Notes

Research notes, not a state ruling. Baker talk is what people discuss. Official pages are cited separately. Confirm before you sell.

Sell to stores (next level)

Cottage / home-kitchen exemptions are usually direct-to-consumer and not for resale into stores. Selling into retail stores typically requires a state manufactured-food (or equivalent) permit and an inspected production kitchen, plus local zoning and business licensing.

This county: We have not collected local store-shelf notes for this place yet.

Confirm with the state food agency and local planning / commissioner offices before you sell into stores. Not legal advice.

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 Richland County, South Carolina. 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/south-carolina/richland-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.

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