

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Blount County

Tennessee · Maryville · FIPS 47009 · Population 135,951 ·
Crosodo Index #993*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022)

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.

TENNESSEE: BLOUNT COUNTY

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Blount County

Population 135,951 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022) ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales. No licensing, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements (except DOH may investigate foodborne illness). Virtually all non-TCS homemade foods are allowed.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not prohibited by state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Blount County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas (near Knoxville metro area/Smoky Mountains). City of Maryville and Alcoa have separate ordinances. No specific county-level cottage food permit override identified. Local home occupation rules may apply.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (TN DOH may investigate only in connection with foodborne illness outbreak; no routine inspection authority.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales. No licensing, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements (except DOH may investigate foodborne illness). Virtually all non-TCS homemade foods are allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required (good practice).
HANDWASHING	Required per good food safety practices; no state-mandated inspections.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — TN DOH may investigate only in connection with foodborne illness outbreak; no routine inspection authority.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Blount County zoning ordinance applies in unincorporated areas (near Knoxville metro area/Smoky Mountains). City of Maryville and Alcoa have separate ordinances. No specific county-level cottage food permit override identified. Local home occupation rules may apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, events, online, retail stores, and restaurants. No geographic restrictions within Tennessee. The Food Freedom Act broadly allows all direct and indirect sales of non-TCS homemade foods.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Not identified for Blount County; state law (Tenn. Code §53-1-125) governs.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (TN) confirmed: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act, 2022). Blount County is adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; county follows state baseline. No county-specific URLs provided or found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Blount County	Sevier County	Knox County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not prohibited by state statute.	No state restriction.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction in Tennessee Food Freedom Act
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, events, online, retail stores, and restaurants. No geographic restrictions within Tennessee. Th...	Direct and indirect sales allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Farmers markets, online sales, home pickup, and events all permitted.	Direct sales to consumers within Tennessee: home, farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online with in-state shipping. ...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales. No licensing, permit, inspection, or labe...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, registration, or i...	Non-TCS foods only (do not require temperature control for safety). No registration required. No inspection required. Food may be sold dire...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS homemade foods only.	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods
POPULATION	135,951	98,455	481,406

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

<p>STATUTE Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP —</p>
<p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED No</p>	<p>FOOD HANDLER CERT No</p>
<p>KITCHEN INSPECTION No</p>	<p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>

INDIRECT SALES
 Yes — The Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Public Chapter 862, effective July 1, 2022) broadly exempts production and sale of non-TCS homemade food items from all licensing, permitting, inspecting, packaging, and labeling laws. Sales may be direct to consumer in person or remotely. Local government ordinances restricting homemade food sales are preempted. Note: Prior to the 2022 Food Freedom Act, the older domestic kitchen regulations (TDA Chapter 0080-4-11) required a permit, inspection, and food safety certification, and limited sales to 100 units/week; the Food Freedom Act supersedes these requirements for qualifying non-TCS homemade foods.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2021/title-53/chapter-8/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/food/food-manufacturing/domestic-kitchen.html>

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

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/tennessee/blount-county-discuss>
