

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Davidson County

Tennessee · Nashville · FIPS 47037 · Population 709,786 ·
Crosodo Index #1232*

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: DAVIDSON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1232* · FIPS 47037 · Nashville

Davidson County

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MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline: any non-TCS homemade food from private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements at state level. Davidson County/Nashville Metro consolidated government may have local business requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified under Food Freedom Act

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Nashville/Davidson Metro is a consolidated city-county government. Contact Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department and the Metro Codes & Building Safety Department for home occupation requirements. Nashville has a home occupation permit process (Metro Code §17.16.030 or similar zoning provisions).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline: any non-TCS homemade food from private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements at state level. Davidson County/Nashville Metro consolidated government may have local business requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified under Food Freedom Act
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water implied; no specific state requirement
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement under Food Freedom Act
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirements

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Nashville/Davidson Metro is a consolidated city-county government. Contact Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department and the Metro Codes & Building Safety Department for home occupation requirements. Nashville has a home occupation permit process (Metro Code §17.16.030 or similar zoning provisions).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer, online, delivery, events, farmers markets all permitted. County seat blank in input — Nashville is the county seat.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; Nashville Metro Code for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

Davidson County/Nashville Metro follows Tennessee Food Freedom Act state baseline. State broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. Nashville is Tennessee’s capital and largest city. No Davidson County-specific cottage food ordinance restricting state law found. Nashville Metro likely has home occupation permit requirements as a business matter (separate from food safety). County seat blank in input data.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/health>

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/planning>

<https://www.nashville.gov>

<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/davidson-county-discuss>

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Davidson 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.

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

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 Davidson County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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