

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hamblen County

Tennessee · Morristown · FIPS 47063 · Population 64,531 ·
Crosodo Index #1074*

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: HAMBLLEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1074* · FIPS 47063 · Morristown

Hamblen County

Population 64,531 · 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 broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production from a private residence. No licensing, permit, inspection, or registration required. No sales cap. All non-TCS foods permitted.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state prohibition

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Hamblen County includes Morristown in east Tennessee. No state-level permit required. Local zoning may apply for home-based businesses. Contact Hamblen County Planning at (423) 585-4055.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; DOH may investigate foodborne illness reports)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production from a private residence. No licensing, permit, inspection, or registration required. No sales cap. All non-TCS foods permitted.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN No

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific state prohibition

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required

HANDWASHING No specific state requirement under Food Freedom Act; good practice recommended

FOOD STORAGE Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage recommended

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED No — No routine inspection; DOH may investigate foodborne illness reports

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Varies — Hamblen County includes Morristown in east Tennessee. No state-level permit required. Local zoning may apply for home-based businesses. Contact Hamblen County Planning at (423) 585-4055.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP Yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE Yes

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct and indirect sales allowed. No restrictions on delivery, farmers markets, online, or retail under the Food Freedom Act.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME No specific limit under Food Freedom Act

Relevant county code

Contact Hamblen County Planning for local zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Public Chapter No. 862, eff. July 1, 2022) is one of the most permissive frameworks: no registration, no inspection, no labeling requirements except DOH illness investigations. Hamblen County is in east Tennessee near Morristown. No county-specific restrictions found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hamblen County	Greene County	Hawkins County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state prohibition	Not specified in state law	No specific TN state or Hawkins County rule; standard food safety practices recommended.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed. No restrictions on delivery, farmers markets, online, or retail under the Food Freedom Act.	Indirect sales allowed at markets, online sales permitted; delivery by producer permitted in-state	No restrictions on sales channels under TN Food Freedom Act. Direct, online, delivery, pickup all permitted. Indirect sales (retail stores)...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production from a private residence. No licensing, permit, inspection,...	No sales cap. No registration required. No inspection required. All non-TCS homemade foods allowed. Indirect sales allowed (farmers markets...	Broad exemption for all non-TCS homemade foods produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap requi...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; proper storage recommended	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products	Products must be non-TCS (no refrigeration required). No formal storage rules under TN Food Freedom Act.
POPULATION	64,531	70,399	57,107

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Hamblen 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	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 Hamblen County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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