

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Sevier County

Tennessee · Sevierville · FIPS 47155 · Population 98,455 ·
Crosodo Index #923*

STATE BASELINE

Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)

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: SEVIER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #923* · FIPS 47155 · Sevierville

Sevier County

Population 98,455 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, registration, or inspection required. Sevier County is a major tourism destination (Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge nearby) which may increase cottage food market opportunities; no additional state restrictions apply based on tourism status.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Sevier County zoning and City of Sevierville may have home occupation requirements. Operators in Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, or other tourism-focused municipalities should verify local business license requirements given active tourism economy.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (DOH may investigate foodborne illness complaints only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, registration, or inspection required. Sevier County is a major tourism destination (Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge nearby) which may increase cottage food market opportunities; no additional state restrictions apply based on tourism status.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No state restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Tennessee Food Freedom Act.
HANDWASHING	No specific statutory requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS homemade foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — DOH may investigate foodborne illness complaints only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Sevier County zoning and City of Sevierville may have home occupation requirements. Operators in Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, or other tourism-focused municipalities should verify local business license requirements given active tourism economy.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Farmers markets, online sales, home pickup, and events all permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No limit specified in Tennessee Food Freedom Act.

Relevant county code

No Sevier County-specific cottage food code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Sevier County-specific cottage food rules found. Tennessee Food Freedom Act is highly permissive. Sevier County’s tourism industry (Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Dollywood area) creates a robust farmers market and direct-to-consumer market. Local business license requirements in tourist municipalities may differ from unincorporated areas.

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/sevier-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Sevier County	Blount County	Jefferson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state restriction.	Not prohibited by state statute.	No specific TN state or Jefferson County rule.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed under Tennessee Food Freedom Act. Farmers markets, online sales, home pickup, and events all permitted.	Sales permitted from home, farmers markets, events, online, retail stores, and restaurants. No geographic restrictions within Tennessee. Th...	No channel restrictions; direct, online, retail, delivery all permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food. No license, permit, registration, or i...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (2022) broadly deregulates non-TCS homemade food production and sales. No licensing, permit, inspection, or labe...	All non-TCS homemade foods from producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or sales cap.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS homemade foods only.	Non-TCS foods only; stored in food-safe containers.	Products must be non-TCS.
POPULATION	98,455	135,951	55,017

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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