

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Shelby County

Tennessee · Memphis · FIPS 47157 · Population 926,440 ·
Crosodo Index #1194*

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Shelby County, Tennessee — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified in state Food Freedom Act

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Tennessee 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
- ☐ Tennessee home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Tennessee label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

TENNESSEE: SHELBY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1194* · FIPS 47157 · Memphis

Shelby County

Population 926,440 · 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 (State baseline applies: any non-TCS homemade food produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements under state law. Memphis/Shelby County may have local health department guidance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state Food Freedom Act

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Memphis and Shelby County have separate governments (consolidated to some extent). Check with the Shelby County Land Use Control Board and City of Memphis Division of Planning and Development for home occupation permit requirements. State law does not preempt local zoning for home-based businesses generally.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat. No routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies: any non-TCS homemade food produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements under state law. Memphis/Shelby County may have local health department guidance.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state Food Freedom Act
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline: potable water implied; no specific state requirement
HANDWASHING	No specific state requirement under Food Freedom Act
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirements under Food Freedom Act

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — State DOH may investigate suspected foodborne illness or immediate public health threat. No routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Memphis and Shelby County have separate governments (consolidated to some extent). Check with the Shelby County Land Use Control Board and City of Memphis Division of Planning and Development for home occupation permit requirements. State law does not preempt local zoning for home-based businesses generally.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

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 at home, farmers markets, events, online, delivery all permitted. No wholesale or retail restrictions stated (2022 law broadly deregulated).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; Shelby County/Memphis zoning code for home occupations

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee's 2022 Food Freedom Act broadly deregulated non-TCS homemade food production — no license, permit, inspection, labeling, or sales venue restrictions at the state level. Shelby County (Memphis) follows state baseline. No Shelby County-specific cottage food ordinance found restricting or modifying state law. The Memphis/Shelby County consolidated government structure means both city and county zoning may apply depending on location. Home occupation permits for the business aspect (separate from food safety regulation) likely required under local zoning — this varies by jurisdiction within the county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.shelbycountyttn.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Shelby County	Tipton County	Fayette County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state Food Freedom Act	No specific pet restriction in state law.	No specific pet restriction in state law; standard food safety hygiene practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Tennessee Food Freedom Act: no restrictions on sales venues or methods for non-TCS foods. Direct-to-consumer at home, farmers markets, even...	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted under TN Food Freedom Act. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allo...	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed under Tennessee Food F...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies: any non-TCS homemade food produced at producer's private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or labeling req...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, ...	Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific state requirements under Food Freedom Act	Non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.	No specific state cottage food storage requirement; non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.
POPULATION	926,440	61,116	42,228

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

Shelby 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/tennessee.

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 about Shelby 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/tennessee/shelby-county-discuss

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 Shelby County, Tennessee. 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/tennessee/shelby-county-discuss

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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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