

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Tipton County

Tennessee · Covington · FIPS 47167 · Population 61,116 ·
Crosodo Index #1063*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)
Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act)	Good	—

CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
MEDIUM	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: TIPTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1063* · FIPS 47167 · Covington

Tipton County

Population 61,116 · 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 (effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or registration required. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction in state law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Tipton County and City of Covington may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Tipton County Office of Planning and Development.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (DOH may investigate only in connection with a foodborne illness investigation.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Tennessee Food Freedom Act (effective July 1, 2022) broadly allows any non-TCS homemade food from a private residence. No license, permit, inspection, or registration required. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction in state law.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water supply requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state mandate; standard hygiene recommended.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — DOH may investigate only in connection with a foodborne illness investigation.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Tipton County and City of Covington may have home occupation zoning requirements. Operators should check with Tipton County Office of Planning and Development.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Broad — direct and indirect sales permitted under TN Food Freedom Act. Online, in-person, delivery, farmers markets, retail stores all allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

Tipton County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Tipton County. Tennessee Food Freedom Act (§53-1-125) is one of the most permissive in the nation. Tipton County is in the Memphis metro area; local zoning should be confirmed. The old §53-8-117 domestic kitchen statute was repealed in 2017.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/112/pub/pc0862.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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