

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Williamson County

Tennessee · Franklin · FIPS 47187 · Population 248,897 ·
Crosodo Index #990*

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: WILLIAMSON COUNTY

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Williamson County

Population 248,897 · State baseline: Tenn. Code §53-1-125 (Food Freedom Act) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022). Williamson County requires home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have city-specific rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Williamson County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. Home occupation permit required. Business must be secondary to residential use. Cities of Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have their own rules that may differ from county rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No license, inspection, or labeling requirements from TDA; DOH may investigate foodborne illness)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — All non-TCS homemade food products allowed with no license, permit, inspection, or labeling requirements from state (Tennessee Food Freedom Act, eff. July 1, 2022). Williamson County requires home occupation permit for home-based businesses in residential zones. Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have city-specific rules.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; no state inspection requirement
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; no refrigerated finished products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No license, inspection, or labeling requirements from TDA; DOH may investigate foodborne illness
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Williamson County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones. Home occupation permit required. Business must be secondary to residential use. Cities of Franklin, Brentwood, and Spring Hill have their own rules that may differ from county rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	All sales channels allowed under TN Food Freedom Act: farmers markets, grocery stores, roadside stands, events, online orders, and in-state shipping. Direct to consumer within Tennessee.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home occupation permit conditions apply

Relevant county code

Tenn. Code §53-1-125; Williamson County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Tennessee Food Freedom Act (Tenn. Code §53-1-125, eff. July 1, 2022) is one of the most permissive frameworks — no state requirements for non-TCS foods. Williamson County is wealthy suburban Nashville county. CityRuleLookup confirms home occupation permit required at county level. County website (williamsoncounty-tn.gov) is confirmed .gov URL. No county-specific cottage food ordinance text found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed and county .gov URL confirmed but no specific cottage food ordinance retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.williamsoncounty-tn.gov>

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/consumers/food-safety/tennessee-food-freedom-act.html>

<https://www.williamsoncounty-tn.gov/165/Licenses-Permits>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/williamson-county-tn>

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

State context — Tennessee cottage food law

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

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