

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Dallas County

Texas · Dallas · FIPS 48113 · Population 2,604,053 · Crosodo Index #989*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

150000

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.

TEXAS: DALLAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #989* · FIPS 48113 · Dallas

Dallas County

Population 2,604,053 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Dallas County follows state cottage food law; county zoning applies in unincorporated areas only. The City of Dallas and other incorporated cities within the county have their own zoning codes that may require home occupation permits. Texas Local Government Code Ch. 231 Subchapter M limits county zoning restrictions on CFPOs.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Dallas County has limited unincorporated area. Most residents are in incorporated cities (Dallas, Irving, Garland, etc.) that have their own home occupation permit requirements. Dallas County Planning & Development handles only unincorporated areas.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health (state law preemption). No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Dallas County follows state cottage food law; county zoning applies in unincorporated areas only. The City of Dallas and other incorporated cities within the county have their own zoning codes that may require home occupation permits. Texas Local Government Code Ch. 231 Subchapter M limits county zoning restrictions on CFPOs.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline applies
HANDWASHING	State baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health (state law preemption). No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Dallas County has limited unincorporated area. Most residents are in incorporated cities (Dallas, Irving, Garland, etc.) that have their own home occupation permit requirements. Dallas County Planning & Development handles only unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows direct and indirect sales, and online/delivery sales with no county-level restriction. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, CFPO selling TCS foods must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — minimal unincorporated area; Tex. Local Gov’t Code §231.181-186 (Subchapter M) limits county zoning of CFPOs

RESEARCH NOTES

Dallas County has very little unincorporated area — the vast majority of residents are in incorporated cities. The dominant city, Dallas, has its own zoning code with home occupation standards. State law preempts county health departments from licensing or inspecting CFPOs. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised the annual cap to \$150,000.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/plandev>

<https://www.dallascounty.org>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>

<https://law.justia.com/codes/texas/local-government-code/title-7/subtitle-b/chapter-231/subchapter-m/>

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

State context — Texas cottage food law

Dallas County’s rules sit on top of Texas’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.	150000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No

INDIRECT SALES
 Limited (see notes) — Sales must be made directly to consumers or to a 'cottage food vendor' (a new category created by SB 541 in 2025 – a person with a contractual relationship who sells on behalf of the cottage food operation to consumers in-state). Cottage food products may not be sold as ingredients to a food service establishment. No retail grocery store or wholesale sales permitted under the pre-2025 framework; SB 541 (2025) adds the cottage food vendor intermediary option. Products must be delivered to consumer or vendor at point of sale or consumer-designated location.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Texas cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

- State statute: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>
 - State dept cottage food page: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/food-establishments/cottage-food-production-operations>
 - Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/texas/>
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Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Dallas County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/texas/dallas-county-discuss>
