

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Fort Bend County

Texas · Richmond · FIPS 48157 · Population 832,607 ·  
Crosodo Index #464\*

## STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000)

## 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: FORT BEND COUNTY

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# Fort Bend County

Population 832,607 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. (SB 541, 2025; cap \$150,000) · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, fee, or inspection for cottage food. Must be private home kitchen. Food handler certification required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (No zoning ordinance can prevent cottage food operations. Cities within Fort Bend County (Sugar Land, Pearland, Missouri City, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements for business activities. Contact the applicable city’s planning department. Fort Bend County rules apply only in unincorporated areas.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No local health department inspection authority for cottage food.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Texas strong state preemption applies. No local permit, fee, or inspection for cottage food. Must be private home kitchen. Food handler certification required.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food handler certification from accredited program required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Standard food storage practices

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No local health department inspection authority for cottage food.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — No zoning ordinance can prevent cottage food operations. Cities within Fort Bend County (Sugar Land, Pearland, Missouri City, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements for business activities. Contact the applicable city’s planning department. Fort Bend County rules apply only in unincorporated areas.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct-to-consumer including online with personal delivery within Texas. SB 541 (2025): wholesale to registered cottage food vendors permitted for non-TCS foods. \$150,000 annual cap.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Unknown

### Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; municipal home occupation ordinances vary

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Fort Bend County follows Texas state baseline. Strong preemption prevents local health department regulation. The county is rapidly growing suburban Houston area with multiple incorporated cities. No Fort Bend County-specific cottage food ordinance found.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov>

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

<https://texascottagefoodlaw.com/basics/>

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

## State context — Texas cottage food law

Fort Bend 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.

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

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

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

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

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