

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Matagorda County

Texas · Bay City · FIPS 48321 · Population 36,700 · Crosodo
Index #997*

STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

150000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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: MATAGORDA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #997* · FIPS 48321 · Bay City

Matagorda County

Population 36,700 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual gross income cap of \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Health departments have no authority to inspect cottage food operations. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot add licensing or inspection requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Matagorda County includes Bay City, which may have home occupation provisions under city zoning. Unincorporated areas have no county zoning. Texas cottage food law preempts local health regulations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual gross income cap of \$150,000 (raised by SB 541, 2025). Health departments have no authority to inspect cottage food operations. Strong state preemption — local governments cannot add licensing or inspection requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Texas cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable, non-TCS. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — DSHS or local health authority may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Matagorda County includes Bay City, which may have home occupation provisions under city zoning. Unincorporated areas have no county zoning. Texas cottage food law preempts local health regulations.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands. SB 541 (2025) also allows sales through nonprofit organizations. No wholesale to retailers.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not restricted by state cottage food law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.

RESEARCH NOTES

Gulf Coast county with Bay City as county seat. State baseline governs. Texas has strong preemption of local health rules for cottage food. No Matagorda County-specific cottage food code identified. Texas SB 541 (2025) raised cap to \$150,000.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.matagorda.tx.us>

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

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.437.htm>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Matagorda County	Calhoun County	Jackson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food operations.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands. SB 541 (2025) also allows sales through n...	All channels permitted including direct to consumer, indirect sales, farmers markets, online, delivery, and through a registered cottage fo...	Sales allowed direct-to-consumer, at farmers markets, online (statewide), fairs, roadside stands, and through nonprofit organizations (SB 5...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	No
RESTRICTIONS	Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. No registration, permit, or inspection required. Annual gross income cap of \$150,...	Texas cottage food law (SB 541, 2025) is highly permissive. No registration required for most operators (registration optional for address ...	Texas allows cottage food from residential home kitchens. Annual gross income cap of \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or i...
FOOD STORAGE	All products must be shelf-stable, non-TCS. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.	Non-TCS foods or TCS foods held at proper temperatures required. No refrigeration mandate for shelf-stable products.	Non-TCS products must be shelf-stable. TCS foods allowed under SB 541 with registration. Proper storage to prevent contamination required.
POPULATION	36,700	20,127	14,760

State context — Texas cottage food law

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

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