

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Nueces County

Texas · Corpus Christi · FIPS 48355 · Population 353,245 ·  
Crosodo Index #891\*

## STATE BASELINE

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; no license/registration required; no inspection;  
\$150,000 annual sales cap; direct and limited indirect sales

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Great	150000	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.

TEXAS: NUECES COUNTY

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### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (No TCS foods; must label with required disclaimer; no state inspection or license required)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state pet restriction; general sanitation required

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (State preemption does not override local zoning. Corpus Christi (primary city) and unincorporated Nueces County may require home occupation permit; operator should check with local planning department)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — No TCS foods; must label with required disclaimer; no state inspection or license required
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state pet restriction; general sanitation required
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water supply required
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety handwashing practices
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Stored in sanitary conditions away from contaminants

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — State preemption does not override local zoning. Corpus Christi (primary city) and unincorporated Nueces County may require home occupation permit; operator should check with local planning department
<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 at home, farmers markets, events; indirect sales to restaurants and retailers allowed up to \$150,000 annual cap
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified

### Relevant county code

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Texas cottage food law is very permissive at state level. No county-specific overlay found for Nueces County. Local municipality (Corpus Christi) may have home occupation zoning rules not researched here.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.nuecesco.com>

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

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

## State context — Texas cottage food law

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

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

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