

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Smith County

Texas · Tyler · FIPS 48423 · Population 234,667 · Crosodo
Index #488*

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: SMITH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #488* · FIPS 48423 · Tyler

Smith County

Population 234,667 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (No license, registration, or inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen'. Smith County and Tyler may require home occupation permit.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Smith County and City of Tyler may require home occupation permit or business license. Check with Tyler Planning Department or Smith County.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — No license, registration, or inspection required. \$150,000 annual gross sales cap (SB 541, 2025). Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. Label must state 'made in a home kitchen'. Smith County and Tyler may require home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; no formal testing requirement for cottage food
HANDWASHING	No formal certification required by state
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: meat, poultry, seafood, ice products, low-acid canned goods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Health department may only act to prevent immediate/serious threat to human life
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Smith County and City of Tyler may require home occupation permit or business license. Check with Tyler Planning Department or Smith County.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales; farmers markets, online, home delivery, third-party delivery platforms allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety Code §437.001 et seq.; Smith County/Tyler zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Smith County TX (Tyler) follows the Texas state baseline. \$150,000 cap from SB 541 (2025). No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.smith-county.com>

<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/smith-county-discuss>

State context — Texas cottage food law

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

Questions?

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

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