

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Tarrant County

Texas · Fort Worth · FIPS 48439 · Population 2,113,854 ·  
Crosodo Index #986\*

## 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: TARRANT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #986\* · FIPS 48439 · Fort Worth

# Tarrant County

Population 2,113,854 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Tarrant County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority exists for cottage food operations. Incorporated cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, and others) may have their own home occupation permit requirements. Texas municipal zoning ordinances may not prohibit the use of a home for cottage food production (state preemption).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

State baseline applies

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies by city (No Tarrant County-level home occupation permit requirement for unincorporated areas. Cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, etc.) have their own home occupation and zoning requirements. Arlington requires health permits for food businesses generally but cottage food operations are exempt under state law.)

**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. No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority for CFPOs.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Tarrant County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority exists for cottage food operations. Incorporated cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, and others) may have their own home occupation permit requirements. Texas municipal zoning ordinances may not prohibit the use of a home for cottage food production (state preemption).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	State baseline applies
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	State baseline applies
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	State baseline applies
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	State baseline applies

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — Health departments may act only to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine or complaint-driven county inspection authority for CFPOs.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies by city — No Tarrant County-level home occupation permit requirement for unincorporated areas. Cities within Tarrant County (Fort Worth, Arlington, etc.) have their own home occupation and zoning requirements. Arlington requires health permits for food businesses generally but cottage food operations are exempt under state law.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	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, online sales with in-person/household delivery, and cottage food vendor intermediaries (SB 541, 2025). Annual gross income cap \$150,000. Starting Sept 2025, operators selling TCS foods must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

### Relevant county code

none — state preemption applies; Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Tarrant County follows state baseline. Texas SB 541 (2025) significantly expanded the program: raised cap to \$150,000, allowed TCS food sales with delivery, created cottage food vendor intermediary role, added nonprofits as eligible operators. Arlington (in Tarrant County) has its own health permit program but cottage food operations are explicitly exempt from food service establishment requirements under state law.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/public-health.html>

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com>

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

<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/tarrant-county-discuss>

## State context — Texas cottage food law

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

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

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