

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Taylor County

Texas · Abilene · FIPS 48441 · Population 143,029 · Crosodo Index #968*

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: TAYLOR COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #968* · FIPS 48441 · Abilene

Taylor County

Population 143,029 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual gross income capped at \$150,000 (raised to \$150,000 by SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. Health departments have no regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not prohibited by state law. Kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Taylor County (unincorporated areas) zoning code may have home occupation provisions. The City of Abilene has a separate home occupation ordinance. Texas state law provides strong preemption of local health regulations for cottage food, but local zoning/home occupation rules may still apply for residential business use.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health; no routine inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual gross income capped at \$150,000 (raised to \$150,000 by SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required before beginning operations. Health departments have no regulatory authority to inspect cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state law. Kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; no specific testing mandate for cottage food producers.
HANDWASHING	Required per general food safety good practices; no state-mandated facility standard for cottage food operations.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Products stored in sealed, food-safe containers. Temperature-controlled storage not required for cottage food products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health; no routine inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Taylor County (unincorporated areas) zoning code may have home occupation provisions. The City of Abilene has a separate home occupation ordinance. Texas state law provides strong preemption of local health regulations for cottage food, but local zoning/home occupation rules may still apply for residential business use.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted from home, at farmers markets, events, online, and third-party delivery. Texas allows indirect sales to restaurants and retail with restrictions. All sales must be within Texas.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute for cottage food operations.

Relevant county code

Taylor County, TX zoning ordinance (unincorporated areas); City of Abilene home occupation regulations.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (TX) confirmed: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001, \$150,000 cap per SB 541 (2025). County govt URL provided (taylorcountytexas.org) but specific cottage food or home occupation provisions not independently retrieved. Abilene is the county seat and a mid-sized city with its own rules. Texas cottage food law strongly preempts local health authority; zoning home occupation may still apply. Confidence medium — county website confirmed but specific ordinance provisions not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.taylorcountytexas.org>

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

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

<https://www.taylorcountytexas.org>

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

State context — Texas cottage food law

Taylor 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/>
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Questions?

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

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