

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Travis County

Texas · — · FIPS 48453 · Population 1,289,054 · Crosodo
Index #448*

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: TRAVIS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #448* · FIPS 48453 · —

Travis County

Population 1,289,054 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Travis County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food. City of Austin requires no food permit for cottage food operations under state law, but operators should check with Austin’s Development Services Department for any zoning ordinance impacts. Unincorporated Travis County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones, with a home occupation permit required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Unincorporated Travis County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses; businesses must be secondary to residential use. Cities within Travis County (Austin, Pflugerville, Lakeway, Manor) have their own rules. Austin specifically states cottage food operators do not need a City of Austin food permit, but should verify zoning and other local ordinances with Austin’s Development Services Department.)

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED Yes — Travis County follows state cottage food law. No county-level health inspection authority for cottage food. City of Austin requires no food permit for cottage food operations under state law, but operators should check with Austin’s Development Services Department for any zoning ordinance impacts. Unincorporated Travis County allows home occupations as accessory use in residential zones, with a home occupation permit required.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN No

PET RESTRICTIONS State baseline applies

WATER SUPPLY State baseline applies

HANDWASHING State baseline applies

FOOD STORAGE State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

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 OCCUPATION PERMIT Conditional — Unincorporated Travis County requires a home occupation permit for home-based businesses; businesses must be secondary to residential use. Cities within Travis County (Austin, Pflugerville, Lakeway, Manor) have their own rules. Austin specifically states cottage food operators do not need a City of Austin food permit, but should verify zoning and other local ordinances with Austin’s Development Services Department.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE 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. Annual gross income cap \$150,000 (SB 541, 2025). Starting Sept 2025, TCS food sellers must register with DSHS.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies

Relevant county code

none — state preemption applies for cottage food; Travis County home occupation permit for unincorporated areas

RESEARCH NOTES

Travis County is dominated by the City of Austin. Austin confirms CFPOs do not need a City food permit under state preemption. However, Austin operators should check zoning and other ordinances with Austin’s Development Services Department. Texas SB 541 (2025) significantly expanded the program: cap raised to \$150,000, TCS foods allowed with delivery, cottage food vendor intermediaries created.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.traviscountytx.gov>

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

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/travis-county-tx>

https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/Environmental/RevisedSite/startingfoodbus_2-29-16.pdf

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

State context — Texas cottage food law

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

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