

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Walker County

Texas · Huntsville · FIPS 48471 · Population 77,182 · Crosodo Index #485*

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: WALKER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #485* · FIPS 48471 · Huntsville

Walker County

Population 77,182 · State baseline: Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. \$150,000 annual gross income cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required. Strong state preemption clause limits local interference.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State law does not require a home occupation permit. The home-based business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Walker County and the City of Huntsville may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Walker County-specific cottage food ordinance found.)

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 inspection.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Almost all non-TCS foods allowed. \$150,000 annual gross income cap (raised by SB 541, 2025). No registration, permit, or inspection required. Strong state preemption clause limits local interference.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state statute.
HANDWASHING	No food handler certification required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods must be stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — Health departments may only act to prevent an immediate and serious threat to human life or health. No routine inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State law does not require a home occupation permit. The home-based business must comply with home-based business rules under §559.955. Walker County and the City of Huntsville may have local zoning home occupation requirements. No Walker County-specific cottage food ordinance found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No registration, permit, or inspection required. May sell directly and indirectly (limited wholesale). Online sales and delivery permitted. SB 541 (2025) added nonprofit operators and created 'cottage food vendor' intermediary.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

Relevant county code

Tex. Health & Safety §437.001 et seq.; §559.955 (home-based business rules). No Walker County-specific code section found.

RESEARCH NOTES

Texas cottage food law (§437.001 et seq.) is one of the most permissive. \$150,000 annual cap (2025, SB 541). No permit or inspection. Local governments cannot restrict under the state preemption unless through home-based business rules (§559.955). No Walker County-specific overrides found. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/walker-county-discuss>

State context — Texas cottage food law

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

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