

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Salt Lake County

Utah · — · FIPS 49035 · Population 1,180,643 · Crosodo Index #638*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Utah Code §4-5-501	Freedom	—	HIGH	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.

UTAH: SALT LAKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #638* · FIPS 49035 · —

Salt Lake County

Population 1,180,643 · State baseline: Utah Code §4-5-501 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Salt Lake County has its own Microenterprise Home Kitchen (MEHK) regulation (adopted by Board of Health June 6, 2024, effective October 2024), requiring a separate SLCO Health Department permit for ready-to-eat food operations at home. This is distinct from the state cottage food registration. Standard cottage food operators also register with UDAF. The MEHK program requires: written SOPs, consent to entry, initial and periodic inspections, food handler/manager certifications.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Standard cottage food: no home occupation permit required from county; UDAF registration required. MEHK (expanded home kitchen for ready-to-eat foods): requires SLCO Health Department permit. UDAF cottage food registration is separate from SLCO MEHK permit.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (MEHK: inspection before permit issuance; periodic inspections thereafter. Standard cottage food: UDAF may inspect upon complaint. Salt Lake County Health Department enforces MEHK regulations.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Salt Lake County has its own Microenterprise Home Kitchen (MEHK) regulation (adopted by Board of Health June 6, 2024, effective October 2024), requiring a separate SLCO Health Department permit for ready-to-eat food operations at home. This is distinct from the state cottage food registration. Standard cottage food operators also register with UDAF. The MEHK program requires: written SOPs, consent to entry, initial and periodic inspections, food handler/manager certifications.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	State baseline applies
HANDWASHING	State baseline applies; MEHK requires hot water at ≥110°F at outlet
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — MEHK: inspection before permit issuance; periodic inspections thereafter. Standard cottage food: UDAF may inspect upon complaint. Salt Lake County Health Department enforces MEHK regulations.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Standard cottage food: no home occupation permit required from county; UDAF registration required. MEHK (expanded home kitchen for ready-to-eat foods): requires SLCO Health Department permit. UDAF cottage food registration is separate from SLCO MEHK permit.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Standard cottage food: products may be sold direct-to-consumer or to stores for resale, within Utah only. MEHK: food sold or provided to consumer must be picked up or delivered directly to consumer; no on-site consumption; no wholesale to retailers; TCS food prepared, cooked, and served same day.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies for cottage food; MEHK: all participants must hold appropriate certifications

Relevant county code

Salt Lake County Board of Health Microenterprise Home Kitchen Regulation (eff. October 2024); Utah Code §4-5-501 (cottage food); Utah Code §26B-7-401 (MEHK)

RESEARCH NOTES

Salt Lake County has enacted its own Microenterprise Home Kitchen (MEHK) regulation (June 2024) that goes beyond the state cottage food baseline. The MEHK program allows ready-to-eat food sales (including TCS foods) from home kitchens but requires a county health permit, SOPs, inspections, and food safety certifications. Standard cottage food (non-TCS shelf-stable foods) still registers with UDAF at the state level. Utah state tier is 'Freedom' due to the broad allowed food list and lack of sales cap. MEHK operators must submit a food handler/manager certification and standard operating procedures.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://slco.org/health>

<https://www.slco.org>

<https://www.saltlakecounty.gov/globalassets/1-site-files/health/regs/microenterprise.pdf>

<https://ag.utah.gov/cottage-food->

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/utah/salt-lake-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Salt Lake County	Utah County	Davis County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	UDAF explicitly prohibits requiring commercial kitchen equipment; no specific pet restriction in statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Standard cottage food: products may be sold direct-to-consumer or to stores for resale, within Utah only. MEHK: food sold or provided to co...	Cottage Food Registration pathway: broad sales — online, home, farmers markets, events, delivery, and retail stores within Utah. Home Consu...	Direct and indirect sales allowed. Farmers markets, online, retail, and delivery all permitted under Cottage Food Registration. Alternative...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Salt Lake County has its own Microenterprise Home Kitchen (MEHK) regulation (adopted by Board of Health June 6, 2024, effective October 202...	Two pathways: (1) Cottage Food Registration (UDAF): requires UDAF registration and food handler's permit; broader sales rights; commercial ...	Utah cottage food law (Utah Code §4-5-501) requires UDAF registration and food handler's permit for Cottage Food Registration pathway. All ...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Standard food storage; no commercial equipment allowed	Non-TCS, non-PHF foods only.
POPULATION	1,180,643	666,021	363,032

State context — Utah cottage food law

Salt Lake County’s rules sit on top of Utah’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

Utah Code §4-5-501

ANNUAL SALES CAP

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — Registered cottage food operations may sell through various channels. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) issues registration; local health departments do not have jurisdiction to regulate compliant cottage food operations except to investigate foodborne illness outbreaks. The state also has a separate Home Consumption and Homemade Food Act (Utah Code Title 4, Chapter 5A) that allows unregistered sales of certain homemade foods with a business license, but only at direct-to-sale farmers markets or direct-to-sale locations with appropriate signage. Food service establishments may not use cottage food products as ingredients in food served to the public.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Utah cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title4/Chapter5/4-5-S9.5.html>

State dept cottage food page: <https://ag.utah.gov/farmers/regulatory-services/food-safety/home-consumption-and-homemade-food-act/>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/utah/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/utah/salt-lake-county-discuss>
