



City of Austin

**AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**

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Travis County

Cottage Foods Guidance Document

A cottage food production operation (CFPO) is defined as an individual operating out of their home preparing and selling approved food products. They are not a food establishment and are not permitted or inspected by the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department. The permit exemption does not affect the authority of the health department to act to prevent an immediate or serious threat to human life of health.

An individual operating a CFPO must have completed an accredited food handlers training program.

Time and Temperature Control for Safety foods (TCS) are not allowed for sale from a CFPO. A TCS food is a food that requires time and temperature control for safety to limit pathogen growth or toxin production. In other words, a TCS food must be held under proper temperature controls, to prevent the growth of bacteria that may cause human illness.

Examples of food products allowed for sale from a CFPO include: baked goods that are non-TCS, breads, rolls, biscuits, sweet breads, muffins, cakes, pastries, cookies, candy, coated and uncoated nuts, unroasted nut butters, fruit butters, canned jams or jellies, fruit pies, dehydrated fruit or vegetables (including dried beans), popcorn and popcorn snacks, cereal, including granola, dry mixes, vinegar, pickles, mustard, roasted coffee or dry tea, dried herbs and dried herb mixtures.

Examples of food products not allowed for sale from a CFPO include: fresh or dried meat or meat products including jerky, canned fruits, vegetables, vegetable butters, salsas etc., kolaches with meat, fish or shellfish products, canned pickled products such as corn relish and sauerkraut, raw seed sprouts, bakery goods which require any type of refrigeration such as cream, custard or meringue pies and cakes or pastries with cream cheese icings or fillings, milk and dairy products including hard, soft and cottage cheeses and yogurt, fresh fruits dipped or coated in chocolate or similar confections, fresh vegetables, and juices made from fresh fruits or vegetables, ice or ice products, barbeque sauces and ketchups, foccaccia-style breads with vegetables or cheeses, chocolate covered graham crackers, Rice Krispy treats, dried pasta, sauerkraut, relishes, salsas, sorghum, lemonade, juices, hot chocolate or similar beverages.

A CFPO is not allowed to sample their products and all products must be packaged to prevent contamination and properly labeled. Labeling must include the name and address of the cottage food production operation and a statement that the food is not inspected by the health department.

Products may be sold at: the individual's home, a farmers' market, a farm stand, a municipal fair, a county fair, festival, or event. Cottage food products may not be sold through the Internet, by mail order, or at wholesale. The gross annual sales from products sold may not exceed \$50,000.00 a year.

For more information please visit:

http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/Environmental/RevisedSite/CottageFoodFAQs11_2013.pdf