

# TEXAS COTTAGE FOOD BUSINESS START-UP Checklist

## 1. BEFORE YOU START

- Understand the Texas Cottage Food Law and how it applies to your business.
- Decide which food products you plan to sell.
- Confirm that each product is allowed under the Texas Cottage Food Law.

## 2. REQUIRED COMPLIANCE STEPS

- Complete a basic course in safe food handling. Visit [FoodSafePal.com](https://www.foodsafe.com), and use coupon code `ComeAndBakeItTX` for \$5 off.
- Create legally compliant labels for each cottage food product.
- Research and acquire appropriate packaging for your product.

## 3. RECOMMENDED BUSINESS SETUP STEPS

- Become a Homemade Texas Verified Seller - show your customers you mean business.
- Develop a basic business plan (products, pricing, sales locations).
- Determine whether you need a Sales & Use Tax Permit (Texas Comptroller).
- Choose a business name and register a DBA if desired.
- Open a separate business bank account.
- Create a website and/or social media presence.
- Order basic marketing materials like business cards.

## 4. READY TO SELL

- Begin selling directly to consumers!
- Scout out local shops who might be interested in wholesaling your food.
- Scout out local farmer's markets, craft fairs, and other sales venues.
- Maintain good sales records.
- Stay current on updates to the Texas Cottage Food Law with Homemade Texas.

