

# COTTAGE FOOD LABELING

## Why is food labeling important?

Food labels provide essential information about a product's ingredients and potential health concerns for consumers. Proper food labels allow consumers to make informed choices about their diet and protect themselves from allergic reactions.

## What is required to be on a cottage food label?

Cottage food must be prepackaged and labeled. All packaged foods are required to have the following information:

- Common or usual name of food product.
- All ingredients of the food product, including any color, artificial flavor, and preservative, listed in descending order by predominance of weights shows with the common or usual name.
- Major food allergen labeling (milk, egg, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soybeans, and sesame).
- Net weight.
- Date the product was processed.

In addition to the required information, cottage food labels must include:

- Registration number provided by the local health department.
- Name of the municipality or county in which the registration was filed.
- The following phrase in prominent lettering: **"This product was produced in a home kitchen not inspected by a health department that may also process common allergens. If you have safety concerns, contact your local health department."**

## Are there packaging or labeling exemptions for cottage food producers?

Yes. The local health department **where the product is sold** may grant exemptions to sell products that are not prepackaged, in which case other prominent written notice shall be provided to the purchaser with the information above.

Written notification includes physical or electronic means (as appropriate), including, but not limited to, brochures, deli cases or menu notifications, label statements, table tents, placards, or other effective means.

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- Date the product was processed.
- Registration number provided by the local health department.
- Name of the municipality or county in which the registration was filed.
- The following phrase in prominent lettering:  
**"This product was produced in a home kitchen not inspected by a health department that may also process common allergens. If you have safety concerns, contact your local health department."**

**The local health department where a cottage product is sold may grant packaging or labeling permissions to sell products that are not prepackaged, in which case other prominent written notice shall be provided to the purchaser with the information above.**

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