



Michigan has specific guidelines for labeling honey for resale under the Michigan Cottage Food Law. Be sure to read the entire document. Pay special attention to required font sizes on your labels.

### **E. Michigan Maple Syrup and Honey Licensing Exemptions**

Under the Michigan Food Law, honey or maple syrup retail outlets and processing facilities operated by the producer are exempt from licensure, if gross sales are \$15,000 or less.

Honey and maple syrup are not considered cottage foods, because the regulatory requirements and exemptions have some significant differences. They do, however, have their own set of licensing exemptions under the law. Here are some of the basic differences and similarities between honey and maple syrup regulations and those for cottage foods:

- Honey and maple syrup producers who meet licensing exemptions must follow the same labeling requirements for their honey and maple syrup as those outlined for cottage food products. (Note: because honey and maple syrup cannot be processed in a home kitchen, the labeling requirement should read, "*Processed in a facility not inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development.*")
- Honey and maple syrup producers who meet the licensing exemptions still must meet all requirements of the Michigan Food Law, including sanitation, building construct and design, employee hygiene, etc.
- Due to the nature of honey and maple syrup products and the equipment needed to process them, it is not possible to produce honey and maple syrup in a home kitchen and still meet the basic food processing requirements. Honey and maple syrup must be produced in a facility that meets basic processing requirements, as outlined in the Michigan Food Law.
- Honey and maple syrup producers can wholesale their products, including to grocery stores and other retailers who will then resell them, as long as they are labeled correctly. Honey and maple syrup producers are not limited to direct sales as cottage food products are.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Michigan Food Law.

For information on Michigan's Cottage Food Law, visit:  
[www.michigan.gov/cottagefood](http://www.michigan.gov/cottagefood)

[www.hollandbees.org](http://www.hollandbees.org)

Sample labels for maple syrup and honey:

**MADE IN A FACILITY NOT INSPECTED BY THE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
& RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Pure Michigan Maple Syrup

Artie Pinkster  
123 Sugar Shack Lane  
Maplepure, MI 82662

Ingredients: Maple Syrup

Net Wt. 16 oz (1 pint) 472 ml

**MADE IN A FACILITY NOT INSPECTED BY THE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
& RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Pure Michigan Honey

Artie Pinkster  
123 Honeybee Lane  
Honey City, MI 82672  
Ingredients: Honey

Net Wt. 12 oz (355 ml)