

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Washington County

Maryland · Hagerstown · FIPS 24043 · Population 154,645 ·  
Crosodo Index #2804\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE
MD COMAR 10.15.03.27	Good	50000	MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED  
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.

MARYLAND: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2804\* · FIPS 24043 · Hagerstown

# Washington County

Population 154,645 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Conditional (Maryland allows cottage food from residential kitchens. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (per COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores (food handler cert required for retail channel). Complaint-based inspection only. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies, jams, preserves, butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), certain snacks (kettle corn, granola).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction on pets in home for standard cottage food sales.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Washington County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity at a residence. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Maryland DOH may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Conditional — Maryland allows cottage food from residential kitchens. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (per COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores (food handler cert required for retail channel). Complaint-based inspection only. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies, jams, preserves, butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), certain snacks (kettle corn, granola).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state restriction on pets in home for standard cottage food sales.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific requirement under Maryland cottage food law.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Good manufacturing practices apply.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-PHF foods only. No pickles, salsas, acidified foods, pickled products, or fermented foods unless via separate On-Farm Home Processing License.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Maryland DOH may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Washington County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity at a residence. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales at farmers markets, from home, at events, at roadside stands, and to retail stores. Online sales and mail-order available for direct channel. Limited indirect retail sales allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

### Relevant county code

Washington County Zoning Ordinance; MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. State baseline governs. Maryland’s emergency rule (last amended November 2024) applies. Separate On-Farm Home Processing License available for pickles/dried fruit/hot sauces up to \$40,000. No Washington County-specific cottage food code identified. County URL verified.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.washco-md.net>

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

<https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/washington-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Washington County	Frederick County	Allegany County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction on pets in home for standard cottage food sales.	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	No pets in kitchen during production (standard health code practice)
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales at farmers markets, from home, at events, at roadside stands, and to retail stores. Online sales and mail-order available for direct ...	Direct sales to end consumers; indirect sales (retail stores) allowed with MDH ID number and food handler certification. No wholesale via b...	Limited indirect sales at markets and events; direct delivery permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maryland allows cottage food from residential kitchens. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (per COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Registration optional (fre...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optiona...	Annual sales cap \$50,000. Food handler certification recommended but not strictly required. Inspection upon complaint only. Registration re...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. No pickles, salsas, acidified foods, pickled products, or fermented foods unless via separate On-Farm Home Processing L...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply	Non-PHF shelf-stable products; appropriate storage required
POPULATION	154,645	273,829	68,161

## State context — Maryland cottage food law

Washington County's rules sit on top of Maryland's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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<b>STATUTE</b> MD COMAR 10.15.03.27	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 50000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Depends	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Recommended
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> No
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> Limited (see notes) — Sales at retail food stores (indirect) are allowed but require prior submission of labels and documentation of ANSI-accredited food safety course completion to the Maryland Department of Health before any retail sales can commence. The Department must notify the producer in writing that requirements are met before retail sales begin.	

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

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

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

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/maryland/washington-county-discuss>

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