

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Worcester County

Maryland · Snow Hill · FIPS 24047 · Population 52,827 ·
Crosodo Index #2531*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)
MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 (annual cap \$50,000)	Good	50000

CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
MEDIUM	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: WORCESTER COUNTY

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Worcester County

Population 52,827 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 (annual cap \$50,000) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods from residential kitchen. Annual cap \$50,000. Complaint-based inspections. No routine inspection. Food handler cert recommended (required only for retail store channel). Registration optional unless selling at retail stores (free online ID number). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters, dry goods, snacks.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific MD state or Worcester County restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Worcester County includes Ocean City (major beach resort). Ocean City area may have business licensing requirements. No specific Worcester County cottage food ordinance identified. Contact Worcester County government in Snow Hill. Separate On-Farm Home Processing License available for farmers to sell pickles, dried fruit, hot sauces up to \$40,000.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Maryland Dept. of Health may inspect on complaint. No routine inspections under complaint-based framework.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods from residential kitchen. Annual cap \$50,000. Complaint-based inspections. No routine inspection. Food handler cert recommended (required only for retail store channel). Registration optional unless selling at retail stores (free online ID number). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters, dry goods, snacks.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific MD state or Worcester County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement beyond standard sanitation. Private well or septic testing may apply under general sanitation rules.
HANDWASHING	Recommended; required if selling in retail stores.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable products. Prohibited: items requiring refrigeration, acidified foods (pickles, salsa, ketchup, BBQ sauce), fermented foods, dairy, meats, beverages.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Maryland Dept. of Health may inspect on complaint. No routine inspections under complaint-based framework.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Worcester County includes Ocean City (major beach resort). Ocean City area may have business licensing requirements. No specific Worcester County cottage food ordinance identified. Contact Worcester County government in Snow Hill. Separate On-Farm Home Processing License available for farmers to sell pickles, dried fruit, hot sauces up to \$40,000.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales. Retail store sales require food handler certification and free registration. Online and direct-to-consumer delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in MD regulation.

Relevant county code

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; no Worcester County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Worcester County is Maryland’s eastern shore county including Ocean City (major resort), Assateague Island, and rural Eastern Shore communities. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State MD baseline: \$50,000 cap, complaint-based inspection, no registration unless selling at retail. Most recent amendment effective 11/27/2024 (Emergency rule exp. 5/26/2025).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCS/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/worcester-county-discuss>

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Worcester 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.

STATUTE MD COMAR 10.15.03.27	ANNUAL SALES CAP 50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Depends	FOOD HANDLER CERT Recommended
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES 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.	

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

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/>

Questions?

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

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