

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Washington County

Minnesota · Stillwater · FIPS 27163 · Population 268,651 ·
Crosodo Index #484*

STATE BASELINE

Minn. Stat. §28A.152

STATE TIER

Great

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

78000

CONFIDENCE

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.

MINNESOTA: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #484* · FIPS 27163 · Stillwater

Washington County

Population 268,651 · State baseline: Minn. Stat. §28A.152 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual sales cap of \$78,000 (2025, CPI-adjusted). Two tiers: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free registration training only; Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year) requires \$50 MDA training course renewed every 3 years plus \$30 annual registration fee. Non-potentially hazardous foods only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Washington County municipalities (Stillwater, Woodbury, etc.) may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Washington County itself does not appear to have county-wide zoning over all municipalities. Producers should check with their specific city or township.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based enforcement only)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual sales cap of \$78,000 (2025, CPI-adjusted). Two tiers: Tier 1 (up to ~\$7,665/year) requires free registration training only; Tier 2 (up to \$78,000/year) requires \$50 MDA training course renewed every 3 years plus \$30 annual registration fee. Non-potentially hazardous foods only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute; kitchen must be sanitary
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; no refrigerated finished products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; complaint-based enforcement only
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Washington County municipalities (Stillwater, Woodbury, etc.) may require home occupation permits under local zoning. Washington County itself does not appear to have county-wide zoning over all municipalities. Producers should check with their specific city or township.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed at home, farmers markets, online (direct delivery only within MN); no interstate sales for home-canned category; Class A CFO model applies for most products
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Minn. Stat. §28A.152; local municipal zoning varies

RESEARCH NOTES

Washington County MN follows the state baseline (Minn. Stat. §28A.152). No county-specific cottage food ordinance found. State MDA administers registration. The 2025 amendment raised the cap to \$78,000 and added CPI indexing. Washington County is a suburban Twin Cities county; local municipalities likely have home occupation permit requirements. Confidence medium – state law confirmed but no specific Washington County .gov cottage food source found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us>

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/28A.152>

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

State context — Minnesota cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
Minn. Stat. §28A.152	78000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales are limited to direct-to-consumer channels: community events, farmers markets, from the producer's home, online (in-state delivery by the producer personally or by mail/commercial delivery), and fundraising donations. Restaurants, retail stores, roadside stands, mail order wholesale, and catering are prohibited. All deliveries must be made by the producer personally unless shipped by mail or commercial delivery upon a prior online sale. Home-canned products in the pH/water-activity exemption category (Subd. 1(a)(2)) may not be sold outside of Minnesota.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/28A.152>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/cottage-food-producer-registration>

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

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/minnesota/washington-county-discuss>
