

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Washington County

New York · Fort Edward · FIPS 36115 · Population 61,310 ·
Crosodo Index #1880*

STATE BASELINE

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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.

NEW YORK: WASHINGTON COUNTY

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Washington County

Population 61,310 · State baseline: N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (NY Home Processor Exemption requires free registration with NY Ag & Markets. All products must be baked (pathogen kill step required). Shelf-stable, non-TCS only. Sales within NY State only. No sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific pet restriction stated in NY Home Processor rules; standard food safety hygiene applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Washington County and individual towns/villages may have home occupation provisions in their zoning codes. Operators should verify with their local town or village zoning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection for NY Home Processor registrants; complaint-based investigation possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — NY Home Processor Exemption requires free registration with NY Ag & Markets. All products must be baked (pathogen kill step required). Shelf-stable, non-TCS only. Sales within NY State only. No sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific pet restriction stated in NY Home Processor rules; standard food safety hygiene applies.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement.
HANDWASHING	No specific state cottage food handwashing mandate beyond general GMP.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be shelf-stable, non-refrigerated, pre-packaged in the home.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection for NY Home Processor registrants; complaint-based investigation possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Washington County and individual towns/villages may have home occupation provisions in their zoning codes. Operators should verify with their local town or village zoning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, home delivery, and online within NY State. Wholesale permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state rules.

Relevant county code

Washington County zoning (home occupation provisions per individual town/village codes); no specific cottage food county code identified.

RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Washington County, NY. State baseline (NY Home Processor Exemption under 1 NYCRR Part 276 / N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4) applies. Key NY restriction: all products must be baked. Registration is free and location-specific. Washington County zoning administered at town/village level.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.washingtoncounty.gov>

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing>

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/12/HomeProcessor.pdf>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Washington County	Warren County	Rensselaer County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific pet restriction stated in NY Home Processor rules; standard food safety hygiene applies.	No specific state prohibition; home kitchen standards apply	No specific NY state restriction on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, home delivery, and online within NY State...	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, flea markets, home delivery, and online within New York State only. Interstate s...	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, via home delivery, and online (within NY State only...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	NY Home Processor Exemption requires free registration with NY Ag & Markets. All products must be baked (pathogen kill step required). Shel...	Home Processor Exemption requires free NY Ag & Markets registration (location-specific). All products must be pre-packaged and labeled in t...	New York Home Processor Exemption requires registration with NYSDAM. Products must be shelf-stable baked goods (all must be baked — a patho...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be shelf-stable, non-refrigerated, pre-packaged in the home.	Shelf-stable pre-packaged products only; must be baked (heat kill step required)	Shelf-stable pre-packaged products only; no refrigerated or TCS products.
POPULATION	61,310	65,684	160,943

State context — New York cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Yes — Wholesale to restaurants, cafes, and grocery stores within New York State is explicitly permitted. Products may also be sold online (NY residents only) and via delivery. Shipping out of state is not permitted. Registration is free, location-specific, and has no expiration date.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/251-Z-4>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/new-york/>

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/new-york/washington-county-discuss>

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

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LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Washington County, New York. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

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