

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Forsyth County

North Carolina · Winston-Salem · FIPS 37067 · Population  
383,739 · Crosodo Index #2796\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
02 NCAC 9C.0307	Good	—	HIGH	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.

NORTH CAROLINA: FORSYTH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2796\* · FIPS 37067 · Winston-Salem

# Forsyth County

Population 383,739 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

**QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Conditional (North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allowed shelf-stable low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy, seafood, meat, bottled water/juice, cream/cream cheese-filled baked goods, cheesecakes. PETS IN HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS entirely. No sales cap. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County requires separate Home Occupation zoning permit.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division requires a home occupation zoning permit (\$50 fee, 3-day review). Submit: floor plan, parking survey, application form, and affidavit. Conditions: no exterior evidence of business; max 25% of floor area; 3 parking spaces; max 1 outside employee + family; no display windows or sales rooms; one non-illuminated sign max 144 sq in. Home cooking, baking, and preserving are listed as permitted service occupations. Business license also required from City Revenue Office.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required for registration renewal.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Conditional — North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allowed shelf-stable low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy, seafood, meat, bottled water/juice, cream/cream cheese-filled baked goods, cheesecakes. PETS IN HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS entirely. No sales cap. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County requires separate Home Occupation zoning permit.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Not specified beyond standard food safety.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required per annual kitchen inspection standards.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required for registration renewal.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division requires a home occupation zoning permit (\$50 fee, 3-day review). Submit: floor plan, parking survey, application form, and affidavit. Conditions: no exterior evidence of business; max 25% of floor area; 3 parking spaces; max 1 outside employee + family; no display windows or sales rooms; one non-illuminated sign max 144 sq in. Home cooking, baking, and preserving are listed as permitted service occupations. Business license also required from City Revenue Office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sales outside North Carolina without additional approval.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only 1 outside employee plus family members residing in dwelling.

### Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307 (state home processor); Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions).

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Home Occupation zoning permit confirmed from official cityofws.org document. Permit fee \$50, 3-day review. Home cooking, baking, preserving explicitly listed as permitted service occupations. NC state Home Processor program requires annual inspection and prohibits pets in home entirely. Separate business license required from City Revenue Office. Confidence high: both state program and city-county permit requirement confirmed from .gov sources.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.forsyth.cc>

<https://www.cityofws.org/DocumentCenter/View/7018/Home-Occupations-Zoning-and-Permitting-Requirements-PDF>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-and-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Forsyth County	Guilford County	Davidson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets anywhere in the home <b>DISQUALIFY</b> the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.	Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing program	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sa...	Direct sales to consumers, wholesale to retail stores and restaurants. No annual sales cap. Buyers may come to home for pickup. Online sale...	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allow...	Annual inspection of home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture. Pets prohibited from home kitchen during food preparation/stora...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.	Kitchen must be in main home dwelling only; no detached structures	Shelf-stable storage only.
POPULATION	383,739	539,557	169,498

## State context — North Carolina cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
02 NCAC 9C.0307	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Yes — Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.	

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

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/north-carolina/>

## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/forsyth-county-discuss>

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