

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chesterfield County

Virginia · Chesterfield · FIPS 51041 · Population 366,019 ·
Crosodo Index #2278*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Va. Code §3.2-5130	Good	Tiered	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.

VIRGINIA: CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

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Chesterfield County

Population 366,019 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection. Permitted items: candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixes, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Chesterfield County requires compliance with home occupation zoning rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Chesterfield County has home occupation provisions in its zoning ordinance. Operators should verify with Chesterfield County Planning Department (chesterfield.gov) whether a home occupation permit is required. Generally, home-based businesses in residential zones must be secondary to residential use, no external evidence of business, limited customer traffic, no employees other than family.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection. Permitted items: candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixes, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Chesterfield County requires compliance with home occupation zoning rules.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. No TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Chesterfield County has home occupation provisions in its zoning ordinance. Operators should verify with Chesterfield County Planning Department (chesterfield.gov) whether a home occupation permit is required. Generally, home-based businesses in residential zones must be secondary to residential use, no external evidence of business, limited customer traffic, no employees other than family.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. No resale or sales to retail food establishments. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only family members; no outside employees for home occupation.

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130 (state cottage food); Chesterfield County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

Virginia state cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) confirmed from state baseline. Chesterfield County (suburban Richmond) follows state baseline. No registration required for non-acidified cottage foods. Pickles/acidified cap is \$9,000/year. County home occupation rules apply. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Chesterfield County-specific zoning details not directly verified from .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chesterfield.gov>

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Chesterfield County	Henrico County	Richmond city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction.	Good sanitation required; no specific state pet rule for cottage food exemption	VDACS home food processing rules require pets to be completely excluded from food preparation, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning a...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. No resale or sales to retail food establishments. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home delivery permitted.	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; no retail/wholesale sales	Under Virginia cottage food exemption, direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online s...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection. Permitted items: candies, ...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; direct-to-consumer sales only; tiered annual sales cap; zoning approval documentation required if seeking ...	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS cottage foods from permitting. For home food processing operations (broader range o...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. No TCS foods.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet-excluded areas required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	366,019	333,120	227,171

State context — Virginia cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Products must be sold in person in the Commonwealth to an individual for his own consumption and not for resale or consignment. They cannot be offered for sale to be used in or offered for consumption in retail food establishments. Sales venues are limited to: private home, temporary event (no more than 14 consecutive days), or farmers market. Internet advertising is explicitly permitted but sales must remain in-person and in-state.

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

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

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/chesterfield-county-discuss>
