

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Henrico County

Virginia · Richmond (independent city; county seat is unincorporated) · FIPS 51087 · Population 333,120 · Crosodo Index #738\*

## STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130; no registration required; tiered sales cap; direct sales only; no inspection required

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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: HENRICO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #738\* · FIPS 51087 · Richmond (independent city; county seat is unincorporated)

# Henrico County

Population 333,120 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130; no registration required; tiered sales cap; direct sales only; no inspection required · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; direct-to-consumer sales only; tiered annual sales cap; zoning approval documentation required if seeking VDACS home food processing permit)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Good sanitation required; no specific state pet rule for cottage food exemption

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (VDACS permit application requires zoning approval documentation. Henrico County note: catering operations from a residence are prohibited per zoning restrictions (per henrico.gov). Cottage food direct sales under §3.2-5130 exemption may be treated differently than catering. Operator should confirm with Henrico County zoning/planning department)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection under §3.2-5130 exemption)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; direct-to-consumer sales only; tiered annual sales cap; zoning approval documentation required if seeking VDACS home food processing permit
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Good sanitation required; no specific state pet rule for cottage food exemption
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard handwashing practices
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	No — No routine inspection under §3.2-5130 exemption
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — VDACS permit application requires zoning approval documentation. Henrico County note: catering operations from a residence are prohibited per zoning restrictions (per henrico.gov). Cottage food direct sales under §3.2-5130 exemption may be treated differently than catering. Operator should confirm with Henrico County zoning/planning department
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; no retail/wholesale sales
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

### Relevant county code

Not identified; [henrico.gov/services/foodservice-permit-application](https://henrico.gov/services/foodservice-permit-application) notes catering from residence prohibited by zoning

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Henrico County explicitly prohibits catering from residences per zoning (confirmed on county website). Cottage food exemption under §3.2-5130 is a simpler pathway that does not require VDACS permit, but zoning implications for home-based food sales should be confirmed with county planning. Direct sales-only state restriction noted.

---

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://henrico.us>

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

<https://henrico.gov/services/foodservice-permit-application/>

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/homefdapplication.pdf>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

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

## State context — Virginia cottage food law

Henrico 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 Henrico County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

---