

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Montgomery County

Virginia · Christiansburg · FIPS 51121 · Population 99,373 ·  
Crosodo Index #740\*

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: MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #740\* · FIPS 51121 · Christiansburg

# Montgomery County

Population 99,373 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private homes including candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixtures, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles and acidified vegetables with equilibrium pH 4.6 or lower allowed with a \$9,000 annual gross sales cap. Direct-to-consumer only; no resale, consignment, or retail food establishments. No registration, permit, or inspection required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Montgomery County and the Town of Christiansburg and Town of Blacksburg (home of Virginia Tech) may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Montgomery County cottage food ordinance identified beyond state law.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No permit or inspection requirements. Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private homes including candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixtures, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles and acidified vegetables with equilibrium pH 4.6 or lower allowed with a \$9,000 annual gross sales cap. Direct-to-consumer only; no resale, consignment, or retail food establishments. No registration, permit, or inspection required.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**

No

**PET RESTRICTIONS**

No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.

**WATER SUPPLY**

No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.

**HANDWASHING**

Standard food safety practices recommended but not legally mandated.

**FOOD STORAGE**

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. TCS foods prohibited. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year (one of the lowest pickle-specific caps in the US). All-caps label required: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.

## Inspection & permitting

**INSPECTION REQUIRED**

No — No permit or inspection requirements. Department may inspect upon consumer complaint.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT**

Conditional — Montgomery County and the Town of Christiansburg and Town of Blacksburg (home of Virginia Tech) may have home occupation zoning requirements. No specific Montgomery County cottage food ordinance identified beyond state law.

**LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE**

Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only at home, farmers markets, events. No resale, consignment, or retail food establishments. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year. General non-acidified cottage food has no stated dollar cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute.

### Relevant county code

No specific Montgomery County code section identified. State law governs: Va. Code §3.2-5130.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Montgomery County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Montgomery County is home to Virginia Tech (Blacksburg). Virginia’s \$9,000 pickle cap is notably restrictive. The all-caps label disclaimer requirement is a distinctive Virginia feature. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>
- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Montgomery County	Roanoke County	Craig County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction in the cottage food statute.	No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only at home, farmers markets, events. No resale, consignment, or retail food establishments. Pickles/acidified ve...	Virginia allows direct sales; Roanoke County home occupation rules require residential character be maintained and may restrict customer vi...	Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets and temporary events (events capped at 14 consecutive days). No online sale...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private homes including candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry ...	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspec...	Va. Code §3.2-5130 provides the home kitchen food processing exemption. No permit, registration, or inspection required at the state level...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. TCS foods prohibited. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year (one of the lowest pickle-spe...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS), shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	99,373	96,653	4,898

## State context — Virginia cottage food law

Montgomery 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.

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### 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.

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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