

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Roanoke city

Virginia · Roanoke · FIPS 51770 · Population 99,213 · Crosodo Index #2117*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Roanoke city, Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No state restriction; Roanoke home occupation rules do not specifically address pets.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Virginia cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Virginia home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Virginia label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

VIRGINIA: ROANOKE CITY

CROSODO INDEX #2117* · FIPS 51770 · Roanoke

Roanoke city

Population 99,213 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Tiered cap: no stated cap for most cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Roanoke City Zoning Code Section 36.2-413 regulates home occupations: must be conducted entirely within the interior of the principal residential structure, limited to 250 sq ft, no exterior changes, no outdoor storage, no commercial vehicles, no clients visiting home for standard home occupations.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state restriction; Roanoke home occupation rules do not specifically address pets.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Roanoke City requires a Business License Zoning Verification form for home occupations (Section 36.2-413). Standard home occupations prohibit clients/customers visiting the home. Sales from home to customers visiting in person may be restricted under the 'no customer visit' standard. Operators should contact Roanoke Planning, Building & Development at (540) 853-1090 to confirm whether cottage food customer pickup triggers the 'personal service home occupation' classification or falls under general home occupation standards.)

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 state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. Tiered cap: no stated cap for most cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Roanoke City Zoning Code Section 36.2-413 regulates home occupations: must be conducted entirely within the interior of the principal residential structure, limited to 250 sq ft, no exterior changes, no outdoor storage, no commercial vehicles, no clients visiting home for standard home occupations.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state restriction; Roanoke home occupation rules do not specifically address pets.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under Virginia cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory requirement; good manufacturing practices recommended.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; store to prevent contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Roanoke City requires a Business License Zoning Verification form for home occupations (Section 36.2-413). Standard home occupations prohibit clients/customers visiting the home. Sales from home to customers visiting in person may be restricted under the 'no customer visit' standard. Operators should contact Roanoke Planning, Building & Development at (540) 853-1090 to confirm whether cottage food customer pickup triggers the 'personal service home occupation' classification or falls under general home occupation standards.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Virginia allows direct sales from home but Roanoke zoning code Section 36.2-413 prohibits customers visiting home for general home occupations. Deliveries limited to USPS, parcel services, messenger services. Customer pickup at home may conflict with standard home occupation rules (no customer/client shall travel to the dwelling). Operators should verify with city planning.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 1 person other than family members residing on premises (Roanoke Zoning Code Section 36.2-413).

Relevant county code

Roanoke City Zoning Code Section 36.2-413 (Home Occupations)

RESEARCH NOTES

Roanoke City (independent city, FIPS 51770) zoning code Section 36.2-413 was retrieved from official city documents. Standard home occupations prohibit customer visits; this is a notable restriction for cottage food pickup. Personal service home occupations allow separate entrance but prohibit non-family employees. The 250 sq ft limit and no-signage rule are confirmed. Virginia state law labels must include 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' No stated sales cap for non-acidified cottage foods; \$9,000 cap for pickles/acidified vegetables.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.roanokeva.gov/2786/Planning-Building-Development>

<https://www.roanokeva.gov>

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

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

<https://www.roanokeva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1364/Business-License-Zoning-Verification-Application>

<https://www.roanokeva.gov/2065/Home-Occupations>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/virginia/roanoke-city-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Roanoke city	Roanoke County	Salem city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state restriction; Roanoke home occupation rules do not specifically address pets.	No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Virginia allows direct sales from home but Roanoke zoning code Section 36.2-413 prohibits customers visiting home for general home occupati...	Virginia allows direct sales; Roanoke County home occupation rules require residential character be maintained and may restrict customer vi...	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspec...	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspec...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Salem is an independent city adjacent to Roanoke County in southwest Vi...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; store to prevent contamination.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	99,213	96,653	25,372

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Roanoke city'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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/virginia.

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 about Roanoke city? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/virginia/roanoke-city-discuss

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Roanoke city, Virginia. 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 on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/virginia/roanoke-city-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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