

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Shenandoah County

Virginia · Woodstock · FIPS 51171 · Population 45,441 ·
Crosodo Index #1704*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Va. Code §3.2-5130	Good	Tiered	MEDIUM	2026-05-06

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: SHENANDOAH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1704* · FIPS 51171 · Woodstock

Shenandoah County

Population 45,441 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Shenandoah County is a rural Shenandoah Valley county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond standard Virginia home occupation zoning requirements. For the VDACS Home Food Processing permit pathway, written zoning approval from the county is required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all times via solid latching doors.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Shenandoah County likely has standard Virginia home occupation zoning provisions. Contact Shenandoah County Planning (Woodstock, VA) for specific requirements. For VDACS home food processing permit, written zoning approval is required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (VDACS home food processing permit: initial inspection required. Cottage food exemption: no routine inspection; complaint-based only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Shenandoah County is a rural Shenandoah Valley county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond standard Virginia home occupation zoning requirements. For the VDACS Home Food Processing permit pathway, written zoning approval from the county is required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all times via solid latching doors.
WATER SUPPLY	Private water supply requires coliform-free water test results for VDACS home food processing permit pathway.
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing per GMP for VDACS permit pathway.
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — VDACS home food processing permit: initial inspection required. Cottage food exemption: no routine inspection; complaint-based only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Shenandoah County likely has standard Virginia home occupation zoning provisions. Contact Shenandoah County Planning (Woodstock, VA) for specific requirements. For VDACS home food processing permit, written zoning approval is required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Virginia state law does not specify a home-based food employee limit. Local zoning may restrict non-resident employee presence.

Relevant county code

Shenandoah County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Va. Code §3.2-5130 (cottage food exemption); VDACS Home Food Processing regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

No Shenandoah County-specific cottage food or home occupation rules found. State baseline for Virginia applies. Medium confidence based on state baseline application.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.shenandoahcountyva.us/>

<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/shenandoah-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Shenandoah County	Page County	Warren County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales a...	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales a...	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	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Shenandoah County is a rural Shenandoah Valley county. No county-specif...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies statewide. Page County is a rural Shenandoah Valley county. No county-sp...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Warren County is a northern Shenandoah Valley county with the county se...
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	44,337	23,753	40,800

State context — Virginia cottage food law

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

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