

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Spotsylvania County

Virginia · Spotsylvania · FIPS 51177 · Population 141,097 ·
Crosodo Index #1564*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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.

VIRGINIA: SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1564* · FIPS 51177 · Spotsylvania

Spotsylvania County

Population 141,097 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000 annual gross sales (one of the lowest caps in the US for acidified foods). Products must bear label: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Spotsylvania County zoning ordinance (Spotsylvania, VA) applies in unincorporated areas. The county is a rapidly growing suburban county in the DC metro area. Home occupation permits may be required under county zoning. Check Spotsylvania County Zoning Division at spotsylvania.va.us.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000 annual gross sales (one of the lowest caps in the US for acidified foods). Products must bear label: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per good food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products only. Products stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Spotsylvania County zoning ordinance (Spotsylvania, VA) applies in unincorporated areas. The county is a rapidly growing suburban county in the DC metro area. Home occupation permits may be required under county zoning. Check Spotsylvania County Zoning Division at spotsylvania.va.us .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only per state law. Sales from home, at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (local delivery), and similar venues. No resale or wholesale to food establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level.

Relevant county code

Spotsylvania County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); not specifically identified for cottage food.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (VA) confirmed: Va. Code §3.2-5130, direct sales only, \$9,000 cap for pickles/acidified vegetables, distinctive label requirement. Spotsylvania County govt URL confirmed. No specific county cottage food ordinance found. Spotsylvania is a growing Northern Virginia suburban county; home occupation permits likely required under county zoning. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.spotsylvania.va.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/>

<https://www.spotsylvania.va.us>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Spotsylvania County	Stafford County	Hanover County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.	If pets are present, food processing and storage areas must be completely enclosed/ separated from the rest of the home with a solid hinged ...	No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only per state law. Sales from home, at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (local delivery), and similar venues. No resa...	Under §3.2-5130 exemption: direct-to-consumer sales only; no resale to food establishments. Under VDACS permit: direct sales and some whole...	Virginia allows direct sales only: home, farmers markets, events, online (no resale). Customer pickup permitted subject to Hanover County h...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at...	Virginia has two pathways: (1) Va. Code §3.2-5130 cottage food exemption — no registration or inspection for direct-to-consumer sales of no...	Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection. Direct sales only. All-caps label required: 'NOT FOR...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products only. Products stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only under cottage food exemption. Proper storage to prevent contamination.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Pickles/ acidified vegetables with pH ≤4.6 allowed but with \$9,000/year cap.
POPULATION	141,097	157,606	110,513

State context — Virginia cottage food law

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/spotsylvania-county-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 Spotsylvania County, 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 free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/virginia/spotsylvania-county-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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