

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Suffolk city

Virginia · Suffolk · FIPS 51800 · Population 94,856 · Crosodo
Index #2272*

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: SUFFOLK CITY

CROSODO INDEX #2272* · FIPS 51800 · Suffolk

Suffolk city

Population 94,856 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

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. No stated cap for non-acidified cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Label must include 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Suffolk City (independent city) has home occupation rules within its zoning code; operators must comply with local home-based business requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Suffolk City (independent city, Virginia's largest city by area) requires home occupation compliance with local zoning code. Operators should contact Suffolk City Zoning (757-514-4150) for home-based business requirements. Suffolk is geographically large with rural and suburban areas.)

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. No stated cap for non-acidified cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Label must include 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Suffolk City (independent city) has home occupation rules within its zoning code; operators must comply with local home-based business requirements.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under Virginia cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Suffolk City (independent city, Virginia's largest city by area) requires home occupation compliance with local zoning code. Operators should contact Suffolk City Zoning (757-514-4150) for home-based business requirements. Suffolk is geographically large with rural and suburban areas.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Virginia allows direct sales; Suffolk City home occupation rules govern customer visits. In-state online sales, farmers markets, and events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Limited to residential character per Suffolk City home occupation rules.

Relevant county code

Suffolk City Zoning Code (home occupation provisions); contact Planning & Community Development at (757) 514-4150.

RESEARCH NOTES

Suffolk City (FIPS 51800) is an independent city and one of Virginia's largest cities by land area (approximately 430 sq miles). Suffolk City website available at [suffolkva.us](https://www.suffolkva.us). No Suffolk-specific cottage food rules found beyond Virginia state baseline and general home occupation zoning. Suffolk has a mix of urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. Local zoning varies by area within the city.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Suffolk city	Portsmouth city	Newport News city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.	No state restriction; Portsmouth home occupation rules do not specifically address pets.	No explicit state restriction; good manufacturing practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Virginia allows direct sales; Suffolk City home occupation rules govern customer visits. In-state online sales, farmers markets, and events...	Virginia allows direct sales; Portsmouth home occupation rules may restrict customer visits to the home. Customer pickup may be limited. Fa...	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, online with local delivery. Customer visits limited per zoning rules.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Yes
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...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. Non-acidified cottage foods have no stated dollar cap; pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/y...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Shelf-stable storage for non-TCS foods.
POPULATION	94,856	97,384	185,118

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Suffolk 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](#).

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/suffolk-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 Suffolk 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 free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/virginia/suffolk-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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