

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Washington County

Virginia · Abingdon · FIPS 51191 · Population 53,985 ·
Crosodo Index #1665*

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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

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Washington County

Population 53,985 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private home. No registration, permit, or inspection. Direct sales only. Allowed: candies, jams/jellies (not acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, baked goods, and more. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) subject to \$9,000 annual cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific VA or Washington County restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Washington County includes Abingdon, a small historic town in far southwest Virginia. No specific Washington County cottage food ordinance identified. County or Town of Abingdon may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Washington County government in Abingdon.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private home. No registration, permit, or inspection. Direct sales only. Allowed: candies, jams/jellies (not acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, baked goods, and more. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) subject to \$9,000 annual cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific VA or Washington County restriction.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.
HANDWASHING	No formal state requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Mandatory label: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Washington County includes Abingdon, a small historic town in far southwest Virginia. No specific Washington County cottage food ordinance identified. County or Town of Abingdon may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Washington County government in Abingdon.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to end consumers only. No consignment or retail store sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in VA statute.

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130; no Washington County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Washington County is in far southwest Virginia (Appalachian region). No county-specific cottage food rules found. Virginia state baseline applies. The \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables is among the lowest in the country.

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/washington-county-discuss>

State context — Virginia cottage food law

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

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