

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Adams County

Washington · Ritzville · FIPS 53001 · Population 21,039 ·  
Crosodo Index #2325\*

## STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

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.

WASHINGTON: ADAMS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2325\* · FIPS 53001 · Ritzville

# Adams County

Population 21,039 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149) requires a biennial WSDA cottage food permit (\$125 inspection fee + \$75 public health review fee + \$30 processing fee). All food handlers must hold a food and beverage service worker’s permit (Chapter 69.06 RCW). Producers must comply with all applicable county and municipal zoning ordinances prior to permitting (WAC 16-149-030(4)). Adams County is a rural agricultural county in eastern Washington. No Adams County-specific home occupation rules found beyond standard WA requirements.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

WAC 16-149 restricts access to the permitted area during cottage food production. Pets must be excluded from the permitted area (home kitchen and storage/packaging areas) during food production and handling.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (WAC 16-149-030(4) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal zoning ordinances and a master business license before the WSDA cottage food permit is issued. Adams County producers should contact Adams County Planning to confirm home occupation zoning requirements. A Washington State master business license (through the Secretary of State/DOR) is also required.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Annual basic hygiene inspection by WSDA required for permit renewal (RCW 69.22.040). Initial inspection required before operations begin.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149) requires a biennial WSDA cottage food permit (\$125 inspection fee + \$75 public health review fee + \$30 processing fee). All food handlers must hold a food and beverage service worker’s permit (Chapter 69.06 RCW). Producers must comply with all applicable county and municipal zoning ordinances prior to permitting (WAC 16-149-030(4)). Adams County is a rural agricultural county in eastern Washington. No Adams County-specific home occupation rules found beyond standard WA requirements.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	WAC 16-149 restricts access to the permitted area during cottage food production. Pets must be excluded from the permitted area (home kitchen and storage/packaging areas) during food production and handling.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific water testing requirement under RCW 69.22 beyond standard food safety practices.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Handwashing facilities required per WAC 16-149 basic hygiene standards.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage per WAC 16-149 basic hygiene requirements; cottage foods must be nonpotentially hazardous.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspection by WSDA required for permit renewal (RCW 69.22.040). Initial inspection required before operations begin.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — WAC 16-149-030(4) requires compliance with all applicable county and municipal zoning ordinances and a master business license before the WSDA cottage food permit is issued. Adams County producers should contact Adams County Planning to confirm home occupation zoning requirements. A Washington State master business license (through the Secretary of State/DOR) is also required.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Washington cottage food: direct sales to consumers only. No internet/mail-order/interstate sales. No retail sales outside Washington. Producers may sell at farmers markets and direct from home. No one other than the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing (RCW §69.22.020).

### Relevant county code

RCW §69.22.010–.040; WAC 16-149; Adams County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Washington state cottage food rules confirmed from RCW 69.22 and WAC 16-149. Adams County is a rural eastern WA agricultural county (seat: Ritzville). No Adams County-specific cottage food or home occupation rules found. WAC 16-149-030(4) explicitly requires compliance with county/municipal zoning before WSDA permit is issued and a master business license. State baseline for Washington applies. Medium confidence: state rules confirmed; county-specific zoning requirements not retrieved.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.adams.wa.us/>

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/business-services/food-safety-and-licensing/cottage-food-operations>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=69.22&full=true>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx/default.aspx?cite=16-149&full=true&pdf=true>

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/washington/adams-county-discuss>

## State context — Washington cottage food law

Adams County's rules sit on top of Washington's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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<b>STATUTE</b> RCW §69.22.010-.040	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Yes	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> No — Cottage food products may only be sold directly to the consumer. Internet sales, mail order, and retail sale outside Washington state are explicitly prohibited. Products may not be repackaged, sold, or used as an ingredient by a food processing plant, or sold by a food service establishment.	

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Washington cottage food law report](#).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=69.22.040>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/business-services/food-safety-and-licensing/cottage-food-operations>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/washington/>

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## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Adams County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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