

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Benton County

Washington · Prosser · FIPS 53005 · Population 207,560 ·  
Crosodo Index #2308\*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
RCW §69.22.010-.040	Good	—	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.

WASHINGTON: BENTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2308\* · FIPS 53005 · Prosser

# Benton County

Population 207,560 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial WSDA permit with annual kitchen inspections. Fee approximately \$125 (inspection) + \$75 (public health review) + \$30 (processing). Food and beverage service worker’s permit required (RCW chapter 69.06). Only non-potentially-hazardous baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butters, and other approved non-PHF foods. Only the permittee or those under their direct supervision may be in the kitchen during processing.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Only the permittee and persons under their direct supervision permitted in the kitchen during processing. Pet presence in the kitchen during production prohibited.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Benton County (unincorporated areas) and municipalities (Kennewick, Richland, Pasco — the Tri-Cities area) may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Washington B&O tax may apply. Contact Benton County Planning & Zoning or relevant Tri-Cities municipality for home occupation requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Annual basic hygiene inspections required as condition of WSDA permit. Permittee must grant WSDA right of entry to home during normal business hours.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial WSDA permit with annual kitchen inspections. Fee approximately \$125 (inspection) + \$75 (public health review) + \$30 (processing). Food and beverage service worker’s permit required (RCW chapter 69.06). Only non-potentially-hazardous baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butters, and other approved non-PHF foods. Only the permittee or those under their direct supervision may be in the kitchen during processing.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Only the permittee and persons under their direct supervision permitted in the kitchen during processing. Pet presence in the kitchen during production prohibited.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific private water testing requirement cited in RCW §69.22.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food and beverage service worker’s permit (RCW ch. 69.06) requires food handler training including hygiene and handwashing.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-potentially-hazardous products only. Standard GMP storage requirements.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspections required as condition of WSDA permit. Permittee must grant WSDA right of entry to home during normal business hours.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Benton County (unincorporated areas) and municipalities (Kennewick, Richland, Pasco — the Tri-Cities area) may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Washington B&O tax may apply. Contact Benton County Planning & Zoning or relevant Tri-Cities municipality for home occupation requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Washington cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at home, events, and farmers markets within Washington. Internet/mail-order/retail sales outside state not permitted. Home pickup allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle products or be in the kitchen during processing per RCW §69.22.

**Relevant county code**

RCW §69.22.040; Benton County zoning ordinances; Tri-Cities (Kennewick/Richland/Pasco) municipal zoning for home occupation

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Washington state baseline applies. Benton County (county seat: Prosser) is part of the Tri-Cities area (Kennewick, Richland, Pasco). Washington’s cottage food requirements are among the most burdensome: biennial permit, annual inspection, food handler certification, and right-of-entry grant to WSDA. No Benton County-specific URLs or overrides found.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

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

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

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

## State context — Washington cottage food law

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

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

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