

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Chelan County

Washington · Wenatchee · FIPS 53007 · Population 79,076 ·  
Crosodo Index #2480\*

| 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: CHELAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2480\* · FIPS 53007 · Wenatchee

# Chelan County

Population 79,076 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Nonpotentially-hazardous baked goods, baked and stovetop candies, jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters, and other nonpotentially hazardous foods identified by rule. No THC ingredients. Only permittee or persons under direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No persons other than permittee or directly supervised persons allowed in kitchen during processing. This effectively excludes pets from preparation area.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (State-level biennial cottage food permit required from Washington State Department of Agriculture (\$125 inspection fee + \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee). Chelan County may additionally require local zoning compliance for home-based businesses. No Chelan County-specific cottage food ordinance found.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Annual basic hygiene inspections required. Biennial permit with inspection (\$125 fee plus \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee). Applicant must sign document granting director right of entry during normal business hours.)

## Home kitchen rules

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>       | Yes — Nonpotentially-hazardous baked goods, baked and stovetop candies, jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters, and other nonpotentially hazardous foods identified by rule. No THC ingredients. Only permittee or persons under direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing. |
| <b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b> | No   |
| <b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>           | No persons other than permittee or directly supervised persons allowed in kitchen during processing. This effectively excludes pets from preparation area.   |
| <b>WATER SUPPLY</b>               | Potable water required.  |
| <b>HANDWASHING</b>                | Food and beverage service worker’s permit required under chapter 69.06 RCW for all food handlers.  |
| <b>FOOD STORAGE</b>               | Non-potentially-hazardous shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.  |

## Inspection & permitting

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>    | Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspections required. Biennial permit with inspection (\$125 fee plus \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee). Applicant must sign document granting director right of entry during normal business hours.  |
| <b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b> | Yes — State-level biennial cottage food permit required from Washington State Department of Agriculture (\$125 inspection fee + \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee). Chelan County may additionally require local zoning compliance for home-based businesses. No Chelan County-specific cottage food ordinance found. |
| <b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b> | Varies  |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes   |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional   |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales to end consumers only. No internet, mail order, or retail sales outside the state. Cannot sell to restaurants or grocery stores. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Only permittee or persons under direct supervision of permittee may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing.      |

**Relevant county code**

RCW §69.22.010-.040; No Chelan County-specific code section found.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Washington State (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial permit with inspection fees (\$230 total) and annual inspections. Food handler permit under RCW 69.06 required. No Chelan County-specific overrides found. This is one of the more burdensome state programs nationally (IJ grade of D). Direct sales only; no online or mail order. Confidence: medium (state law verified, no county-specific ordinance confirmed).

**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/chelan-county-discuss>

## State context — Washington cottage food law

Chelan 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.

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| STATUTE   | ANNUAL SALES CAP  |
| RCW §69.22.010-.040   | —                 |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED   | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| Yes   | Yes               |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION  | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| Yes   | Yes               |
| INDIRECT SALES  |                   |
| 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. |                   |

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

### 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/>

## Questions?

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

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

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