

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Columbia County

Washington · Dayton · FIPS 53013 · Population 4,025 ·
Crosodo Index #2291*

STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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: COLUMBIA COUNTY

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Columbia County

Population 4,025 · 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)). Columbia County is a small rural southeastern Washington county.)

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 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. Columbia County producers should contact Columbia County Planning (Dayton, WA) to confirm home occupation zoning requirements. A Washington State master business license is also required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

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)). Columbia County is a small rural southeastern Washington county.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	WAC 16-149 restricts access to the permitted area during cottage food production. Pets must be excluded from the permitted area during food production and handling.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under RCW 69.22 beyond standard food safety practices.
HANDWASHING	Handwashing facilities required per WAC 16-149 basic hygiene standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage per WAC 16-149 basic hygiene requirements; cottage foods must be nonpotentially hazardous.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspection by WSDA required for permit renewal. Initial inspection required before operations begin.
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. Columbia County producers should contact Columbia County Planning (Dayton, WA) to confirm home occupation zoning requirements. A Washington State master business license is also required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	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. Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	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; Columbia County zoning ordinance (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Washington state cottage food rules confirmed. Columbia County WA is a small rural southeastern WA county (seat: Dayton). Note: Columbia County WA (FIPS 53013) is distinct from Columbia County in other states. No Columbia County WA-specific cottage food or home occupation rules found. State baseline for Washington applies. Medium confidence.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.columbia.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/columbia-county-discuss>

State context — Washington cottage food law

Columbia 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 RCW §69.22.010-.040	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY 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 Columbia County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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