

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cowlitz County

Washington · Kelso · FIPS 53015 · Population 110,621 ·

Crosodo Index #2433*

STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22.010-.040; no stated sales cap; permit required (\$125 biennial + \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee); food handler cert required; annual inspection; direct sales only within WA

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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: COWLITZ COUNTY

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Cowlitz County

Population 110,621 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040; no stated sales cap; permit required (\$125 biennial + \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee); food handler cert required; annual inspection; direct sales only within WA · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Washington requires a biennial cottage food operation permit with annual inspection. All food handlers must have food and beverage service worker’s permit (RCW §69.06). Applicant must grant director right of entry during normal business hours. Non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies/preserves, and other non-PHF foods allowed. No TCS foods.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No other persons may handle cottage food products or be in kitchen during processing except permittee or those under direct supervision (RCW §69.22.040).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Cowlitz County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Washington state cottage food permit is the primary regulatory requirement. Cowlitz County or city of Kelso/Longview may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Cowlitz County Community Development or city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual basic hygiene inspection required per RCW §69.22. Also pre-operational approval required as part of permit process.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Washington requires a biennial cottage food operation permit with annual inspection. All food handlers must have food and beverage service worker’s permit (RCW §69.06). Applicant must grant director right of entry during normal business hours. Non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies/preserves, and other non-PHF foods allowed. No TCS foods.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No other persons may handle cottage food products or be in kitchen during processing except permittee or those under direct supervision (RCW §69.22.040).
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Food and beverage service worker’s permit required for all food handlers (RCW §69.06 food handler card).
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products only. No TCS foods, no THC ingredients (0.3% or greater). Products cannot be sold via internet, mail order, or retail outside WA.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspection required per RCW §69.22. Also pre-operational approval required as part of permit process.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Cowlitz County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Washington state cottage food permit is the primary regulatory requirement. Cowlitz County or city of Kelso/Longview may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Cowlitz County Community Development or city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Washington allows direct sales only within the state. No internet, mail order, or retail outside WA. Only permittee or those under direct supervision may handle products or be in kitchen during processing.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only permittee or persons under their direct supervision; no outside employees in kitchen during processing.

Relevant county code

RCW §69.22.010-.040; RCW §69.06

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (WA tier Good). Washington has one of the more burdensome cottage food frameworks: annual inspection, biennial permit fees, food handler cards for all handlers, right-of-entry grant required. Cowlitz County is in southwestern WA near the Columbia River and Mount St. Helens (Kelso/Longview area). No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

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/cowlitz-county-discuss>

State context — Washington cottage food law

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

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