

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Douglas County

Washington · Waterville · FIPS 53017 · Population 45,795 ·
Crosodo Index #2695*

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: DOUGLAS COUNTY

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Douglas County

Population 45,795 · 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)). Douglas County has a detailed home occupation ordinance (Chapter 18A.66) that explicitly permits home cooking and preserving for the purpose of selling the product as an allowed home occupation use.)

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?

Yes (Douglas County Chapter 18A.66 requires a home occupation permit for most home-based businesses. Home occupation permit is required unless the activity is specifically exempted. Home cooking and preserving for sale is explicitly listed as a permitted home occupation use (DCC 18A.66.040(A)(10)). Standards include: (1) home occupation must be clearly incidental to residential use; (2) limited to 25% of gross floor area of the structure or 500 sq ft, whichever is less; (3) no exterior or window displays or outdoor storage of materials; (4) retail/wholesale sales limited to products created in the home occupation; (5) no restaurant/cafe uses. Exemptions from permit requirement include temporary home boutiques (max 5 days or 10 days/year) and purely administrative home offices. WAC 16-149-030(4) also requires a Washington State master business license.)

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)). Douglas County has a detailed home occupation ordinance (Chapter 18A.66) that explicitly permits home cooking and preserving for the purpose of selling the product as an allowed home occupation use.
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	Yes — Douglas County Chapter 18A.66 requires a home occupation permit for most home-based businesses. Home occupation permit is required unless the activity is specifically exempted. Home cooking and preserving for sale is explicitly listed as a permitted home occupation use (DCC 18A.66.040(A)(10)). Standards include: (1) home occupation must be clearly incidental to residential use; (2) limited to 25% of gross floor area of the structure or 500 sq ft, whichever is less; (3) no exterior or window displays or outdoor storage of materials; (4) retail/wholesale sales limited to products created in the home occupation; (5) no restaurant/cafe uses. Exemptions from permit requirement include temporary home boutiques (max 5 days or 10 days/year) and purely administrative home offices. WAC 16-149-030(4) also requires a Washington State master business license.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

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. Douglas County home occupation rules: retail/wholesale sales limited to products created in the home occupation. Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products during processing (RCW §69.22.020).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Douglas County home occupation rules: primary residence of the operator required; limited to immediate residents plus one nonresident employee. Only the permittee or persons under direct supervision may handle cottage food products during processing (RCW §69.22.020).

Relevant county code

Douglas County Code (East Wenatchee) Chapter 18A.66 (Home Occupations); RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149

RESEARCH NOTES

Douglas County WA (seat: Waterville; East Wenatchee is a city within the county) has a detailed home occupation ordinance (Chapter 18A.66, Ord. TLS 23-11-44B) that explicitly lists home cooking and preserving for sale as a permitted home occupation use (DCC 18A.66.040(A)(10)). Home occupation permit required. Floor area limited to 25%/500 sq ft. No outdoor storage. Retail limited to on-premises products. Classes for home cooking/preserving also permitted. WAC 16-149-030(4) requires county zoning compliance before WSDA cottage food permit is issued. State cottage food baseline applies for food rules. Medium confidence: Douglas County home occupation ordinance confirmed from official CodePublishing source (Ord. TLS 23-11-44B, 2023); WSDA state rules confirmed.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.co.douglas.wa.us/planning/>
- <https://www.co.douglas.wa.us/>
- <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/DouglasCounty/html/DouglasCounty18A/DouglasCounty18A66.html>
- <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>

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

State context — Washington cottage food law

Douglas 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.

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

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