

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Jefferson County

Washington · Port Townsend · FIPS 53031 · Population
32,221 · Crosodo Index #2694*

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

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Jefferson County

Population 32,221 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Washington state law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial permit from the Washington State Department of Agriculture for cottage food operations. Permit fees: approximately \$125 (inspection) + \$75 (public health review) + \$30 (processing). Annual kitchen inspection required. Home kitchen must be the operator’s primary residence. Jefferson County has a separate ‘Cottage Industry’ permit process under JCC 18.20.170 for home-based production businesses, processed as Type II or Type III permits depending on use. Home businesses (JCC 18.20.200) also require a supplemental permit application with site plan and floor plan.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Persons other than the permittee and those under their direct supervision are prohibited in the kitchen during production per RCW §69.22. Pet presence during production is prohibited; standard food safety rules apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Jefferson County Code Title 18 (JCC 18.20.170) establishes a ‘Cottage Industry’ permit for home-based production businesses, processed as Type II (administrative) or Type III (hearing examiner) depending on scale and nature of the use. Separately, JCC 18.20.200 covers ‘Home Businesses’ with a supplemental application requiring a site plan, floor plan, and permit fees based on valuation (minimum 3 hours). The Department of Community Development at 621 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368 (360-379-4450) handles applications. Port Townsend (county seat, incorporated city) has its own rules within city limits.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual basic hygiene inspections required by Washington State Department of Agriculture as a permit condition. Jefferson County Department of Community Development may conduct zoning review for cottage industry/home business permits.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Washington state law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial permit from the Washington State Department of Agriculture for cottage food operations. Permit fees: approximately \$125 (inspection) + \$75 (public health review) + \$30 (processing). Annual kitchen inspection required. Home kitchen must be the operator’s primary residence. Jefferson County has a separate ‘Cottage Industry’ permit process under JCC 18.20.170 for home-based production businesses, processed as Type II or Type III permits depending on use. Home businesses (JCC 18.20.200) also require a supplemental permit application with site plan and floor plan.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Persons other than the permittee and those under their direct supervision are prohibited in the kitchen during production per RCW §69.22. Pet presence during production is prohibited; standard food safety rules apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement cited in RCW §69.22; standard water supply requirements apply per Washington food code.
HANDWASHING	Food and beverage service worker’s permit required under RCW chapter 69.06, implying food handler training and hygiene standards including handwashing.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage requirements per Washington food safety rules; products must be non-potentially hazardous.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspections required by Washington State Department of Agriculture as a permit condition. Jefferson County Department of Community Development may conduct zoning review for cottage industry/home business permits.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Jefferson County Code Title 18 (JCC 18.20.170) establishes a 'Cottage Industry' permit for home-based production businesses, processed as Type II (administrative) or Type III (hearing examiner) depending on scale and nature of the use. Separately, JCC 18.20.200 covers 'Home Businesses' with a supplemental application requiring a site plan, floor plan, and permit fees based on valuation (minimum 3 hours). The Department of Community Development at 621 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368 (360-379-4450) handles applications. Port Townsend (county seat, incorporated city) has its own rules within city limits.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Washington state cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, and from home. Jefferson County cottage industry/home business permit may set conditions on customer visits and traffic. Online sales and mail order outside Washington are restricted by statute.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may be in the kitchen during processing per RCW §69.22. Jefferson County home business permit may impose employee restrictions depending on permit type.

Relevant county code

Jefferson County Code §18.20.170 (Cottage Industry); §18.20.200 (Home Business); RCW §69.22; WAC 16-149

RESEARCH NOTES

Jefferson County has specific cottage industry and home business provisions in JCC 18.20.170 and 18.20.200. Search returned the county code (codepublishing.com) and a Department of Community Development permit guide (co.jefferson.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/15489). Cottage industry permits are processed as Type II or Type III under JCC Title 18. This is more permitting burden than a typical rural WA county. State baseline (RCW §69.22 / WAC 16-149) remains the food safety framework. Medium confidence — cottage industry permit details confirmed from county code.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org>

- <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/communitydevelopment>

- <https://www.co.jefferson.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=69.22.040>

- <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/JeffersonCounty/html/JeffersonCounty18/JeffersonCounty1820.html>

- <https://co.jefferson.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/15489>

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

State context — Washington cottage food law

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

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