

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Mason County

Washington · Shelton · FIPS 53045 · Population 66,053 ·  
Crosodo Index #2280\*

## STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149

## STATE TIER

Good

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

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## CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

## LAST VERIFIED

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: MASON COUNTY

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# Mason County

Population 66,053 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040; WAC 16-149 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Must be permitted by WA Department of Agriculture every two years. Permit includes biennial inspection fee (\$125) + public health review fee (\$75) + \$30 processing fee. Only non-potentially hazardous foods allowed. All food handlers must hold a food and beverage service worker’s permit (RCW 69.06).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No one other than permittee or persons under direct supervision may be in kitchen during processing; pets should be excluded

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Mason County zoning allows cottage industry (home occupation) as an accessory use in residential and rural zones. Home occupations not meeting standard criteria under §17.03.021 require a Special Permit. Operator must obtain a master business license before cottage food permit. Contact Mason County Planning at (360) 427-9670.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Pre-permit inspection required; annual basic hygiene inspections by WA Department of Agriculture)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Must be permitted by WA Department of Agriculture every two years. Permit includes biennial inspection fee (\$125) + public health review fee (\$75) + \$30 processing fee. Only non-potentially hazardous foods allowed. All food handlers must hold a food and beverage service worker’s permit (RCW 69.06).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No one other than permittee or persons under direct supervision may be in kitchen during processing; pets should be excluded
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; written verification of on-site wastewater system may be required
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Handwashing facilities required
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Shelf-stable non-PHF foods only; proper storage required

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Pre-permit inspection required; annual basic hygiene inspections by WA Department of Agriculture
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Mason County zoning allows cottage industry (home occupation) as an accessory use in residential and rural zones. Home occupations not meeting standard criteria under §17.03.021 require a Special Permit. Operator must obtain a master business license before cottage food permit. Contact Mason County Planning at (360) 427-9670.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Yes

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only; no internet, mail order, or retail sales outside state. Sales at home, farmers markets, and events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only permittee and persons under direct supervision; no outside employees during processing

### Relevant county code

Mason County Zoning Code §17.04.212 (Accessory Uses: Cottage Industry); §17.03.021 (Home Occupation Standards)

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Washington requires biennial WA Department of Agriculture permit and annual inspections — among the more burdensome state regimes. Mason County zoning confirms cottage industry is an accessory use in rural zones per §17.04.212; operations not meeting §17.03.021 standards need a Special Permit. A master business license is required by state before cottage food permit. County health page confirms food establishment permit types. No additional Mason County-specific cottage food restrictions beyond state baseline found.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

[https://www.masoncountywa.gov/departments/public\\_health/environmental\\_health/food\\_safety/permits.php](https://www.masoncountywa.gov/departments/public_health/environmental_health/food_safety/permits.php)

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/business-services/food-safety-and-licensing/cottage-food-operations>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx/default.aspx?cite=16-149&full=true&pdf=true>

[https://www.zoneomics.com/code/mason-county-unincorporated-WA/chapter\\_4](https://www.zoneomics.com/code/mason-county-unincorporated-WA/chapter_4)

[https://www.masoncountywa.gov/departments/public\\_health/environmental\\_health/food\\_safety/permits.php](https://www.masoncountywa.gov/departments/public_health/environmental_health/food_safety/permits.php)

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

## State context — Washington cottage food law

Mason 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.

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

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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