

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Pierce County

Washington · Tacoma · FIPS 53053 · Population 918,993 ·
Crosodo Index #1692*

STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22 (Washington Cottage Food Operations law)

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

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: PIERCE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1692* · FIPS 53053 · Tacoma

Pierce County

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MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (State baseline applies: cottage food operation must be conducted in the home kitchen of the operator’s primary residence. \$25,000 annual gross sales cap (raised periodically by WSDA). Non-potentially hazardous foods only.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline: pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Pierce County has home occupation permit requirements for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Contact Pierce County Planning and Land Services. City of Tacoma and other incorporated cities in Pierce County have separate home occupation rules. Check relevant municipal code.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. WSDA has oversight authority.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — State baseline applies: cottage food operation must be conducted in the home kitchen of the operator’s primary residence. \$25,000 annual gross sales cap (raised periodically by WSDA). Non-potentially hazardous foods only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	State baseline: pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices; food handler permit from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department may be required for sales at events
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices; no county-specific overrides found

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department may inspect upon complaint. WSDA has oversight authority.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Pierce County has home occupation permit requirements for home-based businesses in unincorporated areas. Contact Pierce County Planning and Land Services. City of Tacoma and other incorporated cities in Pierce County have separate home occupation rules. Check relevant municipal code.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Washington cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales only. Sales at farmers markets, events, home, online with delivery. No wholesale to retailers or restaurants. \$25,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

RCW §69.22; Pierce County zoning code for home occupations; Tacoma Municipal Code if within city limits

RESEARCH NOTES

Pierce County follows Washington state baseline for cottage food operations. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department handles local food safety matters. No Pierce County-specific cottage food ordinance restricting or expanding state law was found. Home occupation permit requirements for the business aspect likely apply under Pierce County and City of Tacoma zoning. Washington’s cottage food law is administered by WSDA with a \$25,000 annual cap and direct-to-consumer requirement.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov>

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

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

State context — Washington cottage food law

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

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