

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Thurston County

Washington · Olympia · FIPS 53067 · Population 294,272 ·
Crosodo Index #2390*

STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22.010-.040; registration required; kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap

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: THURSTON COUNTY

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Thurston County

Population 294,272 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040; registration required; kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (WSDA registration and kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods including baked goods, jams/jellies, candies; labeling required)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Animals excluded from food production area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (WA does not preempt local zoning. Thurston County (seat: Olympia, state capital) may have home occupation zoning requirements at county or city level. Operator should verify with Thurston County Planning or City of Olympia planning)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required before registration; complaint-based thereafter)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — WSDA registration and kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods including baked goods, jams/jellies, candies; labeling required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Animals excluded from food production area during production
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; well water testing may be required
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required before registration; complaint-based thereafter
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — WA does not preempt local zoning. Thurston County (seat: Olympia, state capital) may have home occupation zoning requirements at county or city level. Operator should verify with Thurston County Planning or City of Olympia planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail or wholesale; no online-only sales without direct delivery
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

WA requires registration and kitchen inspection — notable restriction. Thurston County includes Olympia (state capital). No county-specific overlay beyond state rules found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.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/thurston-county-discuss>

State context — Washington cottage food law

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

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