

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Whitman County

Washington · Colfax · FIPS 53075 · Population 51,017 ·  
Crosodo Index #2302\*

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: WHITMAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2302\* · FIPS 53075 · Colfax

# Whitman County

Population 51,017 · 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. Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle products or be present in the kitchen during processing.)

**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?**

Conditional (Whitman County is an agricultural (Palouse wheat country) county in southeastern Washington, home to Washington State University (Pullman). Home-based businesses in unincorporated areas are subject to Whitman County zoning code accessory use provisions. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Colfax (county seat) and Pullman (home to WSU, separately incorporated) have their 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. Permittee must sign document granting WSDA right of entry to home during normal business hours.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	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. Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle products or be present in the kitchen during processing.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	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.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific private water testing requirement cited in RCW §69.22; standard water supply requirements apply per Washington food code.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food and beverage service worker’s permit required under RCW chapter 69.06, implying food handler training and hygiene standards including handwashing.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Standard food storage requirements per Washington food safety rules; products must be non-potentially hazardous.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspections required by Washington State Department of Agriculture as a permit condition. Permittee must sign document granting WSDA right of entry to home during normal business hours.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Whitman County is an agricultural (Palouse wheat country) county in southeastern Washington, home to Washington State University (Pullman). Home-based businesses in unincorporated areas are subject to Whitman County zoning code accessory use provisions. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified. Colfax (county seat) and Pullman (home to WSU, separately incorporated) have their own rules within city limits.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Washington state cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, and from home. Online sales and mail order outside Washington are restricted by statute. Home pickup generally allowed.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may be in the kitchen during processing per RCW §69.22.

### Relevant county code

Whitman County Zoning Code (home occupation provisions); RCW §69.22; WAC 16-149

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Whitman County is an agricultural county in eastern Washington containing Washington State University (Pullman). No county-specific cottage food or home occupation ordinance found in search. State baseline (RCW §69.22 / WAC 16-149) is the operative framework. Pullman has its own city-level rules. Defaulting to state baseline with medium confidence.

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.whitmancounty.org>

<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>

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

## State context — Washington cottage food law

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

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

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