

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Washington County

Maryland · Hagerstown · FIPS 24043 · Population 154,645 ·
Crosodo Index #2804*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Washington County, Maryland — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction on pets in home for standard cottage food sales.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Maryland cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Maryland home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Maryland label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MARYLAND: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2804* · FIPS 24043 · Hagerstown

Washington County

Population 154,645 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Maryland allows cottage food from residential kitchens. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (per COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores (food handler cert required for retail channel). Complaint-based inspection only. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies, jams, preserves, butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), certain snacks (kettle corn, granola).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction on pets in home for standard cottage food sales.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Washington County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity at a residence. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Maryland DOH may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Maryland allows cottage food from residential kitchens. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (per COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Registration optional (free online ID number) unless selling at retail stores (food handler cert required for retail channel). Complaint-based inspection only. Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies, jams, preserves, butters from enumerated fruits, dry goods (spice blends, coffee, teas), certain snacks (kettle corn, granola).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for standard cottage food sales.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Maryland cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. No pickles, salsas, acidified foods, pickled products, or fermented foods unless via separate On-Farm Home Processing License.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Maryland DOH may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Washington County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning for commercial activity at a residence. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales at farmers markets, from home, at events, at roadside stands, and to retail stores. Online sales and mail-order available for direct channel. Limited indirect retail sales allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Washington County Zoning Ordinance; MD COMAR 10.15.03.27

RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. State baseline governs. Maryland's emergency rule (last amended November 2024) applies. Separate On-Farm Home Processing License available for pickles/dried fruit/hot sauces up to \$40,000. No Washington County-specific cottage food code identified. County URL verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.washco-md.net>

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

<https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/maryland/washington-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Washington County	Frederick County	Allegany County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction on pets in home for standard cottage food sales.	Not specified at county level; state rules require sanitary production environment	No pets in kitchen during production (standard health code practice)
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales at farmers markets, from home, at events, at roadside stands, and to retail stores. Online sales and mail-order available for direct ...	Direct sales to end consumers; indirect sales (retail stores) allowed with MDH ID number and food handler certification. No wholesale via b...	Limited indirect sales at markets and events; direct delivery permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Maryland allows cottage food from residential kitchens. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (per COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)). Registration optional (fre...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only; \$50,000 annual sales cap (COMAR 10.15.03.02B(17-1)); must operate from a residential kitchen. Optiona...	Annual sales cap \$50,000. Food handler certification recommended but not strictly required. Inspection upon complaint only. Registration re...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. No pickles, salsas, acidified foods, pickled products, or fermented foods unless via separate On-Farm Home Processing L...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; standard food storage requirements apply	Non-PHF shelf-stable products; appropriate storage required
POPULATION	154,645	273,829	68,161

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Washington County's rules sit on top of Maryland's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
MD COMAR 10.15.03.27	50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Depends	Recommended
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Upon-complaint	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Limited (see notes) — Sales at retail food stores (indirect) are allowed but require prior submission of labels and documentation of ANSI-accredited food safety course completion to the Maryland Department of Health before any retail sales can commence. The Department must notify the producer in writing that requirements are met before retail sales begin.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Maryland cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/maryland.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.15.03.27>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/Pages/Cottage-Food.aspx>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/maryland/>

Questions about Washington County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/maryland/washington-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Washington County, Maryland. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/maryland/washington-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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