

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Worcester County

Maryland · Snow Hill · FIPS 24047 · Population 52,827 ·
Crosodo Index #2531*

STATE BASELINE

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 (annual cap \$50,000)

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific MD state or Worcester County restriction.

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: WORCESTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2531* · FIPS 24047 · Snow Hill

Worcester County

Population 52,827 · State baseline: MD COMAR 10.15.03.27 (annual cap \$50,000) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous foods from residential kitchen. Annual cap \$50,000. Complaint-based inspections. No routine inspection. Food handler cert recommended (required only for retail store channel). Registration optional unless selling at retail stores (free online ID number). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters, dry goods, snacks.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific MD state or Worcester County restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Worcester County includes Ocean City (major beach resort). Ocean City area may have business licensing requirements. No specific Worcester County cottage food ordinance identified. Contact Worcester County government in Snow Hill. Separate On-Farm Home Processing License available for farmers to sell pickles, dried fruit, hot sauces up to \$40,000.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Maryland Dept. of Health may inspect on complaint. No routine inspections under complaint-based framework.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-potentially hazardous foods from residential kitchen. Annual cap \$50,000. Complaint-based inspections. No routine inspection. Food handler cert recommended (required only for retail store channel). Registration optional unless selling at retail stores (free online ID number). Allowed: non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters, dry goods, snacks.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific MD state or Worcester County restriction.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement beyond standard sanitation. Private well or septic testing may apply under general sanitation rules.

HANDWASHING

Recommended; required if selling in retail stores.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-PHF shelf-stable products. Prohibited: items requiring refrigeration, acidified foods (pickles, salsa, ketchup, BBQ sauce), fermented foods, dairy, meats, beverages.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Maryland Dept. of Health may inspect on complaint. No routine inspections under complaint-based framework.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Worcester County includes Ocean City (major beach resort). Ocean City area may have business licensing requirements. No specific Worcester County cottage food ordinance identified. Contact Worcester County government in Snow Hill. Separate On-Farm Home Processing License available for farmers to sell pickles, dried fruit, hot sauces up to \$40,000.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and limited indirect sales. Retail store sales require food handler certification and free registration. Online and direct-to-consumer delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in MD regulation.

Relevant county code

MD COMAR 10.15.03.27; no Worcester County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Worcester County is Maryland's eastern shore county including Ocean City (major resort), Assateague Island, and rural Eastern Shore communities. No county-specific cottage food rules found. State MD baseline: \$50,000 cap, complaint-based inspection, no registration unless selling at retail. Most recent amendment effective 11/27/2024 (Emergency rule exp. 5/26/2025).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.worcestercounty.gov>

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/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/worcester-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Worcester County	Wicomico County	Somerset County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific MD state or Worcester County restriction.	No specific state pet restriction, but standard sanitation applies.	Local health department standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and limited indirect sales. Retail store sales require food handler certification and free registration. Online and direct-to-consum...	Direct-to-consumer and some indirect sales permitted. Retail store sales require free optional registration and food handler cert. Online s...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted. Retail store sales require prior MDH approval.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous foods from residential kitchen. Annual cap \$50,000. Complaint-based inspections. No routine inspection. Food hand...	Maryland residential kitchen permit allows non-PHF baked goods, non-PHF candy, acid-fruit jellies/jams/preserves/butters, dry goods (spice ...	Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Must produce in residential kitchen in Maryland. Must comply with all applicable county and municipal...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable products. Prohibited: items requiring refrigeration, acidified foods (pickles, salsa, ketchup, BBQ sauce), fermented f...	Non-PHF foods only. Prohibited: refrigerated baked goods, low-acid canned foods, acidified foods/pickled products (pickles, salsa, pepper j...	Products must be stored on premises of the cottage food business. Shelf-stable non-potentially hazardous foods only.
POPULATION	52,827	103,815	24,672

State context — Maryland cottage food law

Worcester 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 Worcester 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/worcester-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 Worcester 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/worcester-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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