

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Forsyth County

North Carolina · Winston-Salem · FIPS 37067 · Population
383,739 · Crosodo Index #2796*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
02 NCAC 9C.0307	Good	—	HIGH	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

Forsyth County, North Carolina — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under North Carolina 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
- ☐ North Carolina home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[North Carolina label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

NORTH CAROLINA: FORSYTH COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2796* · FIPS 37067 · Winston-Salem

Forsyth County

Population 383,739 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allowed shelf-stable low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy, seafood, meat, bottled water/juice, cream/cream cheese-filled baked goods, cheesecakes. PETS IN HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS entirely. No sales cap. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County requires separate Home Occupation zoning permit.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division requires a home occupation zoning permit (\$50 fee, 3-day review). Submit: floor plan, parking survey, application form, and affidavit. Conditions: no exterior evidence of business; max 25% of floor area; 3 parking spaces; max 1 outside employee + family; no display windows or sales rooms; one non-illuminated sign max 144 sq in. Home cooking, baking, and preserving are listed as permitted service occupations. Business license also required from City Revenue Office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required for registration renewal.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allowed shelf-stable low-risk foods including non-refrigerated baked goods, jams, jellies, candies, dried mixes, spices, some beverages, some sauces, acidified foods (pickles, BBQ sauce), freeze-dried fruits/vegetables. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy, seafood, meat, bottled water/juice, cream/cream cheese-filled baked goods, cheesecakes. PETS IN HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS entirely. No sales cap. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County requires separate Home Occupation zoning permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified beyond standard food safety.
HANDWASHING	Required per annual kitchen inspection standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen by NCDA&CS required for registration renewal.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division requires a home occupation zoning permit (\$50 fee, 3-day review). Submit: floor plan, parking survey, application form, and affidavit. Conditions: no exterior evidence of business; max 25% of floor area; 3 parking spaces; max 1 outside employee + family; no display windows or sales rooms; one non-illuminated sign max 144 sq in. Home cooking, baking, and preserving are listed as permitted service occupations. Business license also required from City Revenue Office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sales outside North Carolina without additional approval.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only 1 outside employee plus family members residing in dwelling.

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 09C .0307 (state home processor); Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Unified Development Ordinance (home occupation provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Home Occupation zoning permit confirmed from official cityofws.org document. Permit fee \$50, 3-day review. Home cooking, baking, preserving explicitly listed as permitted service occupations. NC state Home Processor program requires annual inspection and prohibits pets in home entirely. Separate business license required from City Revenue Office. Confidence high: both state program and city-county permit requirement confirmed from .gov sources.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.forsyth.cc>

<https://www.cityofws.org/DocumentCenter/View/7018/Home-Occupations-Zoning-and-Permitting-Requirements-PDF>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-and-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Forsyth County	Guilford County	Davidson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.	Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing program	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sa...	Direct sales to consumers, wholesale to retail stores and restaurants. No annual sales cap. Buyers may come to home for pickup. Online sale...	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allow...	Annual inspection of home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture. Pets prohibited from home kitchen during food preparation/stora...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in home disqualify applicant. Shelf-stable foods only. No sales ...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.	Kitchen must be in main home dwelling only; no detached structures	Shelf-stable storage only.
POPULATION	383,739	539,557	169,498

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

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

STATUTE 02 NCAC 9C.0307	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Yes — Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **North Carolina cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/north-carolina/>

Questions about Forsyth 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/north-carolina/forsyth-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 Forsyth County, North Carolina. 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/north-carolina/forsyth-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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