

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Guilford County

North Carolina · Greensboro · FIPS 37081 · Population
539,557 · Crosodo Index #2177*

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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing 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: GUILFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2177* · FIPS 37081 · Greensboro

Guilford County

Population 539,557 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual inspection of home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture. Pets prohibited from home kitchen during food preparation/storage. Kitchen must be clean, constructed of suitable materials, free of pest activity. Detached structures (garage, basement) do not qualify.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing program

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (NC NCDA&CS Home Processor program requires producers to 'contact your local planning/zoning department to determine if you are permitted to operate a food business from your home and if permits are required.' Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin retrieved from official guilfordcountync.gov confirms: Home occupations permitted in AG, RS, RM, MXU, NB zones; requires Home Occupation Permit via Guilford County EPL (Civic Access Portal); food catering is listed as a permitted example; up to 25% of gross floor area; no outdoor storage; one 4 sq ft freestanding sign (no permit needed); one non-occupant employee may work at residence; must contact Planner at 336-641-3334. Also check with HOA/leasing office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual kitchen inspection required before and during operation. Inspectors from NC Department of Agriculture conduct inspections. Notice of Inspection provided; major violations may disqualify from home-based food business.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual inspection of home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture. Pets prohibited from home kitchen during food preparation/storage. Kitchen must be clean, constructed of suitable materials, free of pest activity. Detached structures (garage, basement) do not qualify.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing program
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal or private water supply inspected as part of kitchen inspection
HANDWASHING	Required per kitchen inspection standards
FOOD STORAGE	Kitchen must be in main home dwelling only; no detached structures

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual kitchen inspection required before and during operation. Inspectors from NC Department of Agriculture conduct inspections. Notice of Inspection provided; major violations may disqualify from home-based food business.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — NC NCDA&CS Home Processor program requires producers to 'contact your local planning/zoning department to determine if you are permitted to operate a food business from your home and if permits are required.' Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin retrieved from official guilfordcountync.gov confirms: Home occupations permitted in AG, RS, RM, MXU, NB zones; requires Home Occupation Permit via Guilford County EPL (Civic Access Portal); food catering is listed as a permitted example; up to 25% of gross floor area; no outdoor storage; one 4 sq ft freestanding sign (no permit needed); one non-occupant employee may work at residence; must contact Planner at 336-641-3334. Also check with HOA/leasing office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers, wholesale to retail stores and restaurants. No annual sales cap. Buyers may come to home for pickup. Online sales and delivery permitted within North Carolina. Interstate sales allowed through some channels.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Guilford County home occupation: only one non-occupant employee may work at/come to the residence

Relevant county code

Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin (guilfordcountync.gov); 02 NCAC 9C.0307.

RESEARCH NOTES

Both Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin (official guilfordcountync.gov PDF) and NC NCDA&CS Home Processor page (official ncagr.gov) retrieved. Guilford County confirms food catering as permitted home occupation; 25% area limit; one non-occupant employee; one 4 sq ft sign. NC state requires annual kitchen inspection and explicitly bars pets from kitchen. NC home processor program allows direct and wholesale sales with no sales cap. State requires local zoning check. Confidence high for both county zoning and state requirements.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov>

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/media/425/download?attachment=>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Guilford County	Forsyth County	Alamance County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing program	Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers, wholesale to retail stores and restaurants. No annual sales cap. Buyers may come to home for pickup. Online sale...	Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sa...	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual inspection of home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture. Pets prohibited from home kitchen during food preparation/stora...	North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allow...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Shelf-stable, low-risk foo...
FOOD STORAGE	Kitchen must be in main home dwelling only; no detached structures	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.
POPULATION	539,557	383,739	171,779

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Guilford 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
02 NCAC 9C.0307	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	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 Guilford 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/guilford-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 Guilford 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/guilford-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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