

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Arlington County

Virginia · Arlington · FIPS 51013 · Population 235,845 ·
Crosodo Index #2176*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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

Arlington County, Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified in state statute

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Virginia label one-pager →](#)

[Print labels for your first market →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

VIRGINIA: ARLINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2176* · FIPS 51013 · Arlington

Arlington County

Population 235,845 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No state registration required for general cottage foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year. Label requirement. Arlington County explicitly lists 'Food Preparation and Home Occupations' as a permitted home occupation, but requires a Home Occupation Permit from Arlington's Permit Arlington system.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Arlington County requires a Home Occupation Permit for food preparation home occupations, submitted online via Permit Arlington. 'Food Preparation and Home Occupations' is explicitly listed as a permitted home occupation per Arlington Zoning Ordinance §12.9.11. Application fee applies per Arlington fee schedule. Restaurants and tearooms are explicitly NOT permitted as home occupations.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No state registration required for general cottage foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year. Label requirement. Arlington County explicitly lists 'Food Preparation and Home Occupations' as a permitted home occupation, but requires a Home Occupation Permit from Arlington's Permit Arlington system.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state statute

WATER SUPPLY

Potable water supply required

HANDWASHING

No formal certification required by state

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; extensive prohibited list (TCS foods, dairy, meat, fish)

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — Arlington County requires a Home Occupation Permit for food preparation home occupations, submitted online via Permit Arlington. 'Food Preparation and Home Occupations' is explicitly listed as a permitted home occupation per Arlington Zoning Ordinance §12.9.11. Application fee applies per Arlington fee schedule. Restaurants and tearooms are explicitly NOT permitted as home occupations.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only per VA state law; no retail consignment. Check Arlington zoning for customer visit limits.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute; Arlington home occupation rules may limit non-resident employees

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130; Arlington County Zoning Ordinance §12.9.11 (Home Occupations)

RESEARCH NOTES

Arlington County has a specific Home Occupation Permit page (arlingtonva.us) with 'Food Preparation and Home Occupations' explicitly listed as a permitted home occupation category. The county requires online permit application via Permit Arlington system under §12.9.11 of the Zoning Ordinance. Restaurants and tearooms explicitly excluded. This is one of the few counties in the batch with confirmed specific cottage food / food prep home occupation language from a county .gov source. Virginia state \$9,000 pickle cap applies. Confidence high due to specific Arlington County .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Building/Permits/Home-Occupation>

<https://www.arlingtonva.us>

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Building/Permits/Home-Occupation>

<https://building.arlingtonva.us/resource/food-preparation-home-occupations>

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

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

Arlington County and nearby places

Regulation	Arlington County	Alexandria city	Falls Church city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute	If pets present, food processing/storage areas must be enclosed/separated with a latching door (for VDACS Home Food Processing permit pathw...	No specific state cottage food pet restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only per VA state law; no retail consignment. Check Arlington zoning for customer visit limits.	Under §3.2-5130 exemption: direct-to-consumer sales only; no resale. Under VDACS permit: broader sales allowed. Customer traffic to home bu...	Direct sales only at home, farmers markets, or temporary events (up to 14 consecutive days). No online ordering, no shipping, no wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Likely
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Likely
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No state registration required for general cottage foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/ye...	Virginia §3.2-5130 cottage food exemption applies. Non-TCS shelf-stable foods allowed (limited list). Pickles/acidified vegetables capped a...	Virginia Home Kitchen Food Processing Exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) permits direct-to-consumer sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a p...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; extensive prohibited list (TCS foods, dairy, meat, fish)	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only under cottage food exemption.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	235,845	157,594	14,576

State context — Virginia cottage food law

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

STATUTE

Va. Code §3.2-5130 (HB 402 / 2026 c. 605)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — As amended by HB 402 (Acts of Assembly 2026 Ch. 605), effective July 1, 2026: exempt foods may be sold at any location, through the internet, or by phone to an individual in Virginia for their own consumption, and delivered in person, by mail, or by delivery service in Virginia. Still no resale, consignment, restaurants, retail food establishments, or out-of-state sales. Local zoning still applies. The VDACS home-food-processor FAQ PDF is stale (still says no online sales); the statute controls. <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/2026/HB402>

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title3.2/chapter51/section3.2-5130/>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

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

Questions about Arlington 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/virginia/arlington-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 Arlington County, Virginia. 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/virginia/arlington-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.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise