

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chesapeake city

Virginia · Chesapeake · FIPS 51550 · Population 249,377 ·
Crosodo Index #1824*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

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

Chesapeake city, Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

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: CHESAPEAKE CITY

CROSODO INDEX #1824* · FIPS 51550 · Chesapeake

Chesapeake city

Population 249,377 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required for general non-acidified cottage foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Direct sales to consumers only. No resale/consignment.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (City of Chesapeake may require home occupation permit under Chesapeake zoning ordinance. As an independent city, Chesapeake administers its own zoning. Check with Chesapeake Planning Department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Department may inspect upon consumer complaint)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required for general non-acidified cottage foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Direct sales to consumers only. No resale/consignment.

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 including TCS foods, dairy, meat, fish

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Upon-complaint — Department may inspect upon consumer complaint

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — City of Chesapeake may require home occupation permit under Chesapeake zoning ordinance. As an independent city, Chesapeake administers its own zoning. Check with Chesapeake Planning Department.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Direct sales to consumers only at home, farmers markets, events. No retail store sales, no consignment, no wholesale.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Not specified in state statute

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130; City of Chesapeake Zoning Ordinance

RESEARCH NOTES

Chesapeake is an independent Virginia city (not a county) that functions as its own local government. Follows Virginia state baseline (Va. Code §3.2-5130). Virginia has a notably low \$9,000 cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. No city-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed but no Chesapeake city .gov cottage food source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cityofchesapeake.net>

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

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

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

Chesapeake city and nearby places

Regulation	Chesapeake city	Norfolk city	Portsmouth city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute	Not specified in state statute	No state restriction; Portsmouth home occupation rules do not specifically address pets.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only at home, farmers markets, events. No retail store sales, no consignment, no wholesale.	Direct sales to consumers only; no retail store sales, no consignment, no wholesale.	Virginia allows direct sales; Portsmouth home occupation rules may restrict customer visits to the home. Customer pickup may be limited. Fa...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required for general non-acidified cottage foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RE...	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspec...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; extensive prohibited list including TCS foods, dairy, meat, fish	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: TCS foods, dairy, meat, fish, refrigerated items	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	249,377	236,973	97,384

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Chesapeake city'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 Chesapeake city? 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/chesapeake-city-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 Chesapeake city, 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/chesapeake-city-discuss

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