

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chesterfield County

Virginia · Chesterfield · FIPS 51041 · Population 366,019 ·
Crosodo Index #2278*

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

Chesterfield County, 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No specific state restriction.

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: CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2278* · FIPS 51041 · Chesterfield

Chesterfield County

Population 366,019 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection. Permitted items: candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixes, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Chesterfield County requires compliance with home occupation zoning rules.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Chesterfield County has home occupation provisions in its zoning ordinance. Operators should verify with Chesterfield County Planning Department (chesterfield.gov) whether a home occupation permit is required. Generally, home-based businesses in residential zones must be secondary to residential use, no external evidence of business, limited customer traffic, no employees other than family.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection. Permitted items: candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixes, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Chesterfield County requires compliance with home occupation zoning rules.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable products. No TCS foods.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Chesterfield County has home occupation provisions in its zoning ordinance. Operators should verify with Chesterfield County Planning Department (chesterfield.gov) whether a home occupation permit is required. Generally, home-based businesses in residential zones must be secondary to residential use, no external evidence of business, limited customer traffic, no employees other than family.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. No resale or sales to retail food establishments. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only family members; no outside employees for home occupation.

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130 (state cottage food); Chesterfield County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions).

RESEARCH NOTES

Virginia state cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) confirmed from state baseline. Chesterfield County (suburban Richmond) follows state baseline. No registration required for non-acidified cottage foods. Pickles/acidified cap is \$9,000/year. County home occupation rules apply. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Chesterfield County-specific zoning details not directly verified from .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chesterfield.gov>

<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/chesterfield-county-discuss

Chesterfield County and nearby places

Regulation	Chesterfield County	Henrico County	Richmond city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction.	Good sanitation required; no specific state pet rule for cottage food exemption	VDACS home food processing rules require pets to be completely excluded from food preparation, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning a...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only. No resale or sales to retail food establishments. Farmers markets, roadside stands, home delivery permitted.	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; no retail/ wholesale sales	Under Virginia cottage food exemption, direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online s...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection. Permitted items: candies, ...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; direct-to-consumer sales only; tiered annual sales cap; zoning approval documentation required if seeking ...	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) exempts non-TCS cottage foods from permitting. For home food processing operations (broader range o...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. No TCS foods.	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet-excluded areas required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	366,019	333,120	227,171

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Chesterfield 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 Chesterfield 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/chesterfield-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 Chesterfield 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/chesterfield-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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