

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Harrisonburg city

Virginia · Harrisonburg · FIPS 51660 · Population 51,784 ·
Crosodo Index #769*

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

Harrisonburg 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

No

PETS

Not specified in state law.

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: HARRISONBURG CITY

CROSODO INDEX #769* · FIPS 51660 · Harrisonburg

Harrisonburg city

Population 51,784 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be primary private home. Products must be non-TCS shelf-stable foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH ≤ 4.6) allowed with \$9,000 annual cap. No TCS foods. No resale/consignment. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Harrisonburg is an independent city with its own zoning code. Home occupation permit or business license may be required for operating a cottage food business from a residential address. Recommend verifying with Harrisonburg Planning/Zoning Department and City Treasurer's Office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Department may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must be primary private home. Products must be non-TCS shelf-stable foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH ≤ 4.6) allowed with \$9,000 annual cap. No TCS foods. No resale/consignment. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law.
WATER SUPPLY	Not specified in state law.
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation practices; not explicitly required.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be shelf-stable and non-TCS.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. Department may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Harrisonburg is an independent city with its own zoning code. Home occupation permit or business license may be required for operating a cottage food business from a residential address. Recommend verifying with Harrisonburg Planning/Zoning Department and City Treasurer's Office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No resale or consignment through retail food establishments. Label with all-caps disclaimer required.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130; Harrisonburg City Zoning Code (home occupation provisions)

RESEARCH NOTES

Harrisonburg is a Virginia independent city (not a county). State law allows cottage food from home without inspection or registration. The all-caps label disclaimer is a distinctive Virginia requirement. No Harrisonburg city-specific cottage food rules found; city home occupation permit may be required. Note: general Virginia law has no stated dollar cap for non-acidified cottage foods, but pickles/acidified vegetables are capped at \$9,000/year, one of the lowest in the US.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.harrisonburgcounty.gov>

<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/harrisonburg-city-discuss

Harrisonburg city and nearby places

Regulation	Harrisonburg city	Rockingham County	Shenandoah County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law.	Not specified in state law.	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No resale or consignment through retail food establishments. Label with all-caps disclaimer required.	Direct sales only (in-person). No resale, no consignment, no sales to retail food establishments. Products must be sold directly from produ...	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Must be primary private home. Products must be non-TCS shelf-stable foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH ≤4.6) allowed with \$9,000 annua...	Virginia cottage food: non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private home. Allowed: candies, jams, jellies, dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonin...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Shenandoah County is a rural Shenandoah Valley county. No county-specif...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be shelf-stable and non-TCS.	No specific statutory requirement.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	51,784	83,905	44,337

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Harrisonburg 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 Harrisonburg 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/harrisonburg-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 Harrisonburg 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/harrisonburg-city-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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