

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Henrico County

Virginia · Richmond (independent city; county seat is unincorporated) · FIPS 51087 · Population 333,120 · Crosodo Index #771*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130; no registration required; tiered sales cap; direct sales only; no inspection required

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	Tiered	MEDIUM	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

Henrico 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?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Good sanitation required; no specific state pet rule for cottage food exemption

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: HENRICO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #771* · FIPS 51087 · Richmond (independent city; county seat is unincorporated)

Henrico County

Population 333,120 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130; no registration required; tiered sales cap; direct sales only; no inspection required · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; direct-to-consumer sales only; tiered annual sales cap; zoning approval documentation required if seeking VDACS home food processing permit)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Good sanitation required; no specific state pet rule for cottage food exemption

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (VDACS permit application requires zoning approval documentation. Henrico County note: catering operations from a residence are prohibited per zoning restrictions (per henrico.gov). Cottage food direct sales under §3.2-5130 exemption may be treated differently than catering. Operator should confirm with Henrico County zoning/planning department)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection under §3.2-5130 exemption)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only; direct-to-consumer sales only; tiered annual sales cap; zoning approval documentation required if seeking VDACS home food processing permit
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Good sanitation required; no specific state pet rule for cottage food exemption
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing practices
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection under §3.2-5130 exemption
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — VDACS permit application requires zoning approval documentation. Henrico County note: catering operations from a residence are prohibited per zoning restrictions (per henrico.gov). Cottage food direct sales under §3.2-5130 exemption may be treated differently than catering. Operator should confirm with Henrico County zoning/planning department
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; no retail/wholesale sales
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified; henrico.gov/services/foodservice-permit-application notes catering from residence prohibited by zoning

RESEARCH NOTES

Henrico County explicitly prohibits catering from residences per zoning (confirmed on county website). Cottage food exemption under §3.2-5130 is a simpler pathway that does not require VDACS permit, but zoning implications for home-based food sales should be confirmed with county planning. Direct sales-only state restriction noted.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://henrico.us>

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

<https://henrico.gov/services/foodservice-permit-application/>

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/homefdapplication.pdf>

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

Henrico County and nearby places

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

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Henrico 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 Henrico 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/henrico-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 Henrico 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/henrico-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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