

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Petersburg city

Virginia · Petersburg · FIPS 51730 · Population 34,058 ·
Crosodo Index #2455*

STATE BASELINE

Va. Code §3.2-5130

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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

Petersburg city, 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Conditional

PETS

VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all times via solid latching doors. Cottage food exemption has no explicit statutory pet 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: PETERSBURG CITY

CROSODO INDEX #2455* · FIPS 51730 · Petersburg

Petersburg city

Population 34,058 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Petersburg is an independent city. Home occupations must be conducted wholly within a main building by a family member residing on premises. No advertising beyond a 1 sq ft identification sign. No non-family employees. No equipment beyond what is normally residential. Home occupations are a permitted use in residential zoning districts. A Home Occupation Zoning Approval Questionnaire must be submitted to the Department of Planning and Community Development, and zoning approval is required as part of the business license process.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all times via solid latching doors. Cottage food exemption has no explicit statutory pet restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Petersburg requires a Home Occupation Zoning Approval Questionnaire submitted to the Department of Planning and Community Development (135 N Union Street, Petersburg, VA 23803; pcd@petersburg-va.org; 804-733-2308). Zoning approval is a prerequisite for a business license. The questionnaire addresses: floor area used (must not exceed 1/4 of one floor), no structural modifications, whether clients/employees visit, whether commodities not made on premises are stored/sold, and whether signs are on premises. No non-family employees allowed under standard home occupation definition. A city business license is also required from the Commissioner of the Revenue.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (VDACS home food processing permit: initial inspection required. Cottage food exemption: no routine inspection; complaint-based only.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Petersburg is an independent city. Home occupations must be conducted wholly within a main building by a family member residing on premises. No advertising beyond a 1 sq ft identification sign. No non-family employees. No equipment beyond what is normally residential. Home occupations are a permitted use in residential zoning districts. A Home Occupation Zoning Approval Questionnaire must be submitted to the Department of Planning and Community Development, and zoning approval is required as part of the business license process.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all times via solid latching doors. Cottage food exemption has no explicit statutory pet restriction.

WATER SUPPLY

Private water supply requires coliform-free water test results for VDACS home food processing permit pathway.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing per GMP for VDACS permit pathway.

FOOD STORAGE

Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — VDACS home food processing permit: initial inspection required. Cottage food exemption: no routine inspection; complaint-based only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Petersburg requires a Home Occupation Zoning Approval Questionnaire submitted to the Department of Planning and Community Development (135 N Union Street, Petersburg, VA 23803; pcd@petersburg-va.org; 804-733-2308). Zoning approval is a prerequisite for a business license. The questionnaire addresses: floor area used (must not exceed 1/4 of one floor), no structural modifications, whether clients/employees visit, whether commodities not made on premises are stored/sold, and whether signs are on premises. No non-family employees allowed under standard home occupation definition. A city business license is also required from the Commissioner of the Revenue.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales allowed. Petersburg home occupation rules limit client visits to premises and prohibit storage of commodities not made on-site.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No non-family employees under Petersburg home occupation definition. No person outside the resident family may be employed at the home.

Relevant county code

Petersburg Zoning Ordinance Appendix B (home occupation definition); Va. Code §3.2-5130 (cottage food exemption); VDACS Home Food Processing regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

Petersburg is an independent city in Virginia. Home occupation rules confirmed from official petersburgva.gov PDF questionnaire and zoning ordinance excerpt. Home occupation is defined restrictively: conducted wholly within the main building, family members only, 1 sq ft sign limit, no external indication of business, no non-residential equipment. A zoning approval questionnaire must be submitted to Planning & Community Development before a business license is issued. Questionnaire checks: floor area (max 1/4 of one floor), no structural changes, client/employee visits, commodity storage, and signage. City business license also required. State cottage food baseline applies for food rules. Medium confidence: specific home occupation documentation confirmed; some details on fees and processing times not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.petersburgva.gov/>

<https://www.petersburgva.gov/>

<https://www.petersburgva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5508/Home-Occupation-Questionnaire---PDF-Format>

<https://petersburgva.gov/602/Business-Licenses>

<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/petersburg-city-discuss

Petersburg city and nearby places

Regulation	Petersburg city	Dinwiddie County	Prince George County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...	No specific state cottage food pet restriction; good sanitation practices expected.	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	No	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales a...	Direct sales only at home, farmers markets, or temporary events (up to 14 consecutive days). No online ordering, no shipping, no wholesale,...	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	Yes	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Likely	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Petersburg is an independent city. Home occupations must be conducted w...	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...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Prince George County has a planning and zoning department with Chapter ...
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	33,261	28,057	42,634

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Petersburg 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 Petersburg 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/petersburg-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 Petersburg 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/petersburg-city-discuss

Free ad space available

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