

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Spotsylvania County

Virginia · Spotsylvania · FIPS 51177 · Population 141,097 ·
Crosodo Index #1583*

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

Spotsylvania County, Virginia — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.

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: SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1583* · FIPS 51177 · Spotsylvania

Spotsylvania County

Population 141,097 · 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 at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000 annual gross sales (one of the lowest caps in the US for acidified foods). Products must bear label: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Spotsylvania County zoning ordinance (Spotsylvania, VA) applies in unincorporated areas. The county is a rapidly growing suburban county in the DC metro area. Home occupation permits may be required under county zoning. Check Spotsylvania County Zoning Division at spotsylvania.va.us.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000 annual gross sales (one of the lowest caps in the US for acidified foods). Products must bear label: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Required per good food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products only. Products stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Spotsylvania County zoning ordinance (Spotsylvania, VA) applies in unincorporated areas. The county is a rapidly growing suburban county in the DC metro area. Home occupation permits may be required under county zoning. Check Spotsylvania County Zoning Division at spotsylvania.va.us .
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only per state law. Sales from home, at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (local delivery), and similar venues. No resale or wholesale to food establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level.

Relevant county code

Spotsylvania County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); not specifically identified for cottage food.

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (VA) confirmed: Va. Code §3.2-5130, direct sales only, \$9,000 cap for pickles/acidified vegetables, distinctive label requirement. Spotsylvania County govt URL confirmed. No specific county cottage food ordinance found. Spotsylvania is a growing Northern Virginia suburban county; home occupation permits likely required under county zoning. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.spotsylvania.va.us>

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

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

<https://www.spotsylvania.va.us>

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

Spotsylvania County and nearby places

Regulation	Spotsylvania County	Stafford County	Hanover County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.	If pets are present, food processing and storage areas must be completely enclosed/ separated from the rest of the home with a solid hinged ...	No specific state prohibition; standard food safety practices apply.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only per state law. Sales from home, at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (local delivery), and similar venues. No resa...	Under §3.2-5130 exemption: direct-to-consumer sales only; no resale to food establishments. Under VDACS permit: direct sales and some whole...	Virginia allows direct sales only: home, farmers markets, events, online (no resale). Customer pickup permitted subject to Hanover County h...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at...	Virginia has two pathways: (1) Va. Code §3.2-5130 cottage food exemption — no registration or inspection for direct-to-consumer sales of no...	Virginia allows non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection. Direct sales only. All-caps label required: 'NOT FOR...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-TCS products only. Products stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only under cottage food exemption. Proper storage to prevent contamination.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products only. Pickles/ acidified vegetables with pH ≤4.6 allowed but with \$9,000/year cap.
POPULATION	141,097	157,606	110,513

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Spotsylvania 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 Spotsylvania 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/spotsylvania-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 Spotsylvania 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/spotsylvania-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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