

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Suffolk city

Virginia · Suffolk · FIPS 51800 · Population 94,856 · Crosodo
Index #2272*

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

Suffolk 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?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.

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: SUFFOLK CITY

CROSODO INDEX #2272* · FIPS 51800 · Suffolk

Suffolk city

Population 94,856 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. No stated cap for non-acidified cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Label must include 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Suffolk City (independent city) has home occupation rules within its zoning code; operators must comply with local home-based business requirements.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Suffolk City (independent city, Virginia's largest city by area) requires home occupation compliance with local zoning code. Operators should contact Suffolk City Zoning (757-514-4150) for home-based business requirements. Suffolk is geographically large with rural and suburban areas.)

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 state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspection required. Direct sales only; no wholesale. No stated cap for non-acidified cottage foods; \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables. Label must include 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION.' Suffolk City (independent city) has home occupation rules within its zoning code; operators must comply with local home-based business requirements.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement under Virginia cottage food law.

HANDWASHING

No specific statutory requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

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

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Suffolk City (independent city, Virginia's largest city by area) requires home occupation compliance with local zoning code. Operators should contact Suffolk City Zoning (757-514-4150) for home-based business requirements. Suffolk is geographically large with rural and suburban areas.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Virginia allows direct sales; Suffolk City home occupation rules govern customer visits. In-state online sales, farmers markets, and events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Limited to residential character per Suffolk City home occupation rules.

Relevant county code

Suffolk City Zoning Code (home occupation provisions); contact Planning & Community Development at (757) 514-4150.

RESEARCH NOTES

Suffolk City (FIPS 51800) is an independent city and one of Virginia's largest cities by land area (approximately 430 sq miles). Suffolk City website available at suffolkva.us. No Suffolk-specific cottage food rules found beyond Virginia state baseline and general home occupation zoning. Suffolk has a mix of urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. Local zoning varies by area within the city.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.suffolkva.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.suffolkva.us>

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

Suffolk city and nearby places

Regulation	Suffolk city	Portsmouth city	Isle of Wight County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No state restriction; local home occupation rules may apply.	No state restriction; Portsmouth home occupation rules do not specifically address pets.	No specific state cottage food pet restriction.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	No	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Virginia allows direct sales; Suffolk City home occupation rules govern customer visits. In-state online sales, farmers markets, and events...	Virginia allows direct sales; Portsmouth home occupation rules may restrict customer visits to the home. Customer pickup may be limited. Fa...	Direct sales only at home, farmers markets, or temporary events (up to 14 consecutive days). No online ordering, no shipping, no wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Likely
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspec...	Virginia state law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) allows home kitchen production of non-TCS shelf-stable cottage foods with no registration or inspec...	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...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	94,856	97,384	38,898

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Suffolk 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 Suffolk 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/suffolk-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 Suffolk 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/suffolk-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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