

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Surry County

Virginia · Surry · FIPS 51181 · Population 6,579 · Crosodo  
Index #1696\*

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

Surry 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?

**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.**

### 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: SURRY COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1696\* · FIPS 51181 · Surry

## Surry County

Population 6,579 · 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. Surry County is a small, rural Tidewater county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond standard Virginia home occupation zoning requirements. For the VDACS Home Food Processing permit pathway, written zoning approval from the county is required.)

## 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.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Surry County likely has standard Virginia home occupation zoning provisions. Contact Surry County Planning for specific requirements. For VDACS home food processing permit, written zoning approval is required.)

## 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. Surry County is a small, rural Tidewater county. No county-specific cottage food ordinance identified beyond standard Virginia home occupation zoning requirements. For the VDACS Home Food Processing permit pathway, written zoning approval from the county is required.

## 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.

## 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 &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

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

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Surry County likely has standard Virginia home occupation zoning provisions. Contact Surry County Planning for specific requirements. For VDACS home food processing permit, written zoning approval is required.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Conditional

**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. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Virginia state law does not specify a home-based food employee limit. Local zoning may restrict non-resident employee presence.                    |

**Relevant county code**

Surry County Zoning Ordinance (home occupation provisions); Va. Code §3.2-5130 (cottage food exemption); VDACS Home Food Processing regulations

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No Surry County-specific cottage food or home occupation rules found. State baseline for Virginia applies. Medium confidence based on state baseline application.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.surrycountyva.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/surry-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/surry-county-discuss)

## Surry County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Surry County                                                                                                                                   | Charles City County                                                                                                                            | Sussex 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 pet restriction in state cottage food law.                                                                                         | 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... | Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets and temporary events (events capped at 14 consecutive days). No online sale... | 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                                                                                                                                    | No                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Surry County is a small, rural Tidewater county. No county-specific cot... | Va. Code §3.2-5130 provides the home kitchen food processing exemption. No permit, registration, or inspection required at the state level...  | Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Sussex County is a rural southside Virginia county. No county-specific ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.                                                      | Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS), shelf-stable foods only.                                                                                  | Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.                                                      |
| POPULATION                 | 6,546                                                                                                                                          | 6,760                                                                                                                                          | 10,866                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Virginia cottage food law

Surry 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](https://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 Surry 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/surry-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/surry-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Surry County, Virginia. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/surry-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/virginia/surry-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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