

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Virginia Beach city

Virginia · Virginia Beach · FIPS 51810 · Population 457,900 ·
Crosodo Index #2244*

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

Virginia Beach 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

Not specified in state statute; standard food safety GMP applies.

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: VIRGINIA BEACH CITY

CROSODO INDEX #2244* · FIPS 51810 · Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach city

Population 457,900 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Virginia cottage food law exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection (Va. Code §3.2-5130). Permitted items: candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixes, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Virginia Beach zoning requires home occupation compliance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute; standard food safety GMP applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Virginia Beach Zoning Ordinance requires home occupations to comply with accessory use standards. Home occupations in residential zones are permitted as accessory uses; must not generate traffic beyond normal residential levels, no external evidence of business, no employees other than family members in residence, no sales to general public from premises except for agricultural products. A Conditional Use Permit may be required for customer-facing home operations. Virginia Beach Planning Dept: 757-385-8074.)

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 cottage food law exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection (Va. Code §3.2-5130). Permitted items: candies, jams, jellies (not low-acid/acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixes, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, cotton candy, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and baked goods not requiring temperature control. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'. Virginia Beach zoning requires home occupation compliance.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state statute; standard food safety GMP applies.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.

HANDWASHING

Not specified in state cottage food statute; standard food safety practices apply.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable storage. Products not requiring temperature control only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint per Va. Code §3.2-5130(D).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Virginia Beach Zoning Ordinance requires home occupations to comply with accessory use standards. Home occupations in residential zones are permitted as accessory uses; must not generate traffic beyond normal residential levels, no external evidence of business, no employees other than family members in residence, no sales to general public from premises except for agricultural products. A Conditional Use Permit may be required for customer-facing home operations. Virginia Beach Planning Dept: 757-385-8074.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No resale, consignment, or sales to retail food establishments. Sales at farmers markets, roadside stands, home delivery permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only family members occupying the dwelling; no outside employees for home occupation.

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130 (state cottage food); Virginia Beach Zoning Ordinance §111 et seq. (accessory use/home occupation).

RESEARCH NOTES

Virginia Beach is an independent city (FIPS 51810), functions as its own county-equivalent. State cottage food law (Va. Code §3.2-5130) is well-documented with no registration required for non-acidified foods. Pickles/acidified cap is \$9,000/year (very low). Virginia Beach zoning ordinance limits home occupations in residential zones as accessory uses. No explicit cottage food zoning preemption in Virginia (unlike Florida), so local compliance required. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; city-specific zoning details not fully extracted from official code.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://planning.virginiabeach.gov/zoning>

<https://www.virginiabeach.gov>

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

<https://planning.virginiabeach.gov/zoning>

https://www.zoneomics.com/code/virginia-beach-VA/chapter_4

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

Virginia Beach city and nearby places

Regulation	Virginia Beach city	Chesapeake city	Norfolk city
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute; standard food safety GMP applies.	Not specified in state statute	Not specified in state statute
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No resale, consignment, or sales to retail food establishments. Sales at farmers markets, roadside stands, h...	Direct sales to consumers only at home, farmers markets, events. No retail store sales, no consignment, no wholesale.	Direct sales to consumers only; no retail store sales, no consignment, no wholesale.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia cottage food law exempts non-TCS shelf-stable foods from licensing and inspection (Va. Code §3.2-5130). Permitted items: candies, ...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required for general non-acidified cottage foods. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required. Pickles/acidified vegetables capped at \$9,000/year. Label must state 'NOT FOR RE...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable storage. Products not requiring temperature control only.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; extensive prohibited list including TCS foods, dairy, meat, fish	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; prohibited: TCS foods, dairy, meat, fish, refrigerated items
POPULATION	457,900	249,377	236,973

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Virginia Beach 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 Virginia Beach 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/virginia-beach-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 Virginia Beach 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/virginia-beach-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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