

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Washington County

Virginia · Abingdon · FIPS 51191 · Population 53,985 ·
Crosodo Index #1635*

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

Washington 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

No specific VA or Washington County 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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1635* · FIPS 51191 · Abingdon

Washington County

Population 53,985 · State baseline: Va. Code §3.2-5130 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private home. No registration, permit, or inspection. Direct sales only. Allowed: candies, jams/jellies (not acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, baked goods, and more. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) subject to \$9,000 annual cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific VA or Washington County restriction.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Washington County includes Abingdon, a small historic town in far southwest Virginia. No specific Washington County cottage food ordinance identified. County or Town of Abingdon may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Washington County government in Abingdon.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private home. No registration, permit, or inspection. Direct sales only. Allowed: candies, jams/jellies (not acidified), dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, nuts, vinegars, popcorn, baked goods, and more. Pickles/acidified vegetables (pH 4.6 or lower) subject to \$9,000 annual cap.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific VA or Washington County restriction.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific requirement; primary residence kitchen.

HANDWASHING

No formal state requirement.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Mandatory label: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Washington County includes Abingdon, a small historic town in far southwest Virginia. No specific Washington County cottage food ordinance identified. County or Town of Abingdon may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Washington County government in Abingdon.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP

Yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE

Conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES

Direct sales to end consumers only. No consignment or retail store sales.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME

Not specified in VA statute.

Relevant county code

Va. Code §3.2-5130; no Washington County-specific ordinance identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Washington County is in far southwest Virginia (Appalachian region). No county-specific cottage food rules found. Virginia state baseline applies. The \$9,000 annual cap for pickles/acidified vegetables is among the lowest in the country.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.washingtoncounty.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/washington-county-discuss

Washington County and nearby places

Regulation	Washington County	Smyth County	Russell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific VA or Washington County restriction.	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to end consumers only. No consignment or retail store sales.	Virginia cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Home pickup and local delivery permitted for non-TCS shelf-stable items. Online sales a...	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	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods from private home. No registration, permit, or inspection. Direct sales only. Allowed: candies, jams/jellies (no...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Smyth County is a rural southwest Virginia county. No county-specific c...	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Russell County is a rural southwest Virginia county. No county-specific...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable products. Mandatory label: 'NOT FOR RESALE — PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION'.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	53,985	29,799	25,763

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Washington 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 Washington 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/washington-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 Washington 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/washington-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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