

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Winchester city

Virginia · Winchester · FIPS 51840 · Population 27,800 ·
Crosodo Index #1795*

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

Winchester 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

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: WINCHESTER CITY

CROSODO INDEX #1795* · FIPS 51840 · Winchester

Winchester city

Population 27,800 · 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. Winchester is an independent city in the northern Shenandoah Valley. No city-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 city 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 (Winchester city likely requires home occupation compliance per local zoning. Contact Winchester City Planning for current home occupation permit 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. Winchester is an independent city in the northern Shenandoah Valley. No city-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 city 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 & 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 — Winchester city likely requires home occupation compliance per local zoning. Contact Winchester City Planning for current home occupation permit 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

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

RESEARCH NOTES

No Winchester city-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.winchesterva.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/winchester-city-discuss

Winchester city and nearby places

Regulation	Winchester city	Frederick County	Warren 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 state restriction.	VDACS home food processing permit pathway requires pets excluded from food prep, storage, packaging, and equipment cleaning areas at all ti...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Upon-complaint	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	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...	Virginia allows direct sales; Frederick County home occupation rules govern customer visits. In-state online sales, farmers markets, events...	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	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia state cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Winchester is an independent city in the northern Shenandoah Valley. No...	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 cottage food exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) applies. Warren County is a northern Shenandoah Valley county with the county se...
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Proper storage to prevent contamination; pet exclusion required for VDACS permit pathway.
POPULATION	28,103	92,007	40,800

State context — Virginia cottage food law

Winchester 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 Winchester 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/winchester-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 Winchester 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/winchester-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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