

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Benton County

Washington · Prosser · FIPS 53005 · Population 207,560 ·
Crosodo Index #2308*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
RCW §69.22.010-.040	Good	—	MEDIUM	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

Benton County, Washington — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Only the permittee and persons under their direct supervision permitted in the kitchen during processing. Pet presence in the kitchen during production prohibited.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Washington 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
- ☐ Washington home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Washington label one-pager →](#)

Local notes & questions →

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

WASHINGTON: BENTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2308* · FIPS 53005 · Prosser

Benton County

Population 207,560 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial WSDA permit with annual kitchen inspections. Fee approximately \$125 (inspection) + \$75 (public health review) + \$30 (processing). Food and beverage service worker's permit required (RCW chapter 69.06). Only non-potentially-hazardous baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butters, and other approved non-PHF foods. Only the permittee or those under their direct supervision may be in the kitchen during processing.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Only the permittee and persons under their direct supervision permitted in the kitchen during processing. Pet presence in the kitchen during production prohibited.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Benton County (unincorporated areas) and municipalities (Kennewick, Richland, Pasco — the Tri-Cities area) may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Washington B&O tax may apply. Contact Benton County Planning & Zoning or relevant Tri-Cities municipality for home occupation requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual basic hygiene inspections required as condition of WSDA permit. Permittee must grant WSDA right of entry to home during normal business hours.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial WSDA permit with annual kitchen inspections. Fee approximately \$125 (inspection) + \$75 (public health review) + \$30 (processing). Food and beverage service worker's permit required (RCW chapter 69.06). Only non-potentially-hazardous baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butters, and other approved non-PHF foods. Only the permittee or those under their direct supervision may be in the kitchen during processing.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Only the permittee and persons under their direct supervision permitted in the kitchen during processing. Pet presence in the kitchen during production prohibited.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement cited in RCW §69.22.
HANDWASHING	Food and beverage service worker's permit (RCW ch. 69.06) requires food handler training including hygiene and handwashing.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially-hazardous products only. Standard GMP storage requirements.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspections required as condition of WSDA permit. Permittee must grant WSDA right of entry to home during normal business hours.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Benton County (unincorporated areas) and municipalities (Kennewick, Richland, Pasco — the Tri-Cities area) may require home occupation permits for home-based businesses. Washington B&O tax may apply. Contact Benton County Planning & Zoning or relevant Tri-Cities municipality for home occupation requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Washington cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at home, events, and farmers markets within Washington. Internet/mail-order/retail sales outside state not permitted. Home pickup allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle products or be in the kitchen during processing per RCW §69.22.

Relevant county code

RCW §69.22.040; Benton County zoning ordinances; Tri-Cities (Kennewick/Richland/Pasco) municipal zoning for home occupation

RESEARCH NOTES

Washington state baseline applies. Benton County (county seat: Prosser) is part of the Tri-Cities area (Kennewick, Richland, Pasco). Washington's cottage food requirements are among the most burdensome: biennial permit, annual inspection, food handler certification, and right-of-entry grant to WSDA. No Benton County-specific URLs or overrides found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bentoncounty.gov>

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/business-services/food-safety-and-licensing/cottage-food-operations>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=69.22.040>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Benton County	Yakima County	Grant County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Only the permittee and persons under their direct supervision permitted in the kitchen during processing. Pet presence in the kitchen durin...	No pets in food preparation area during processing (persons not allowed other than permittee and direct supervision)	No one other than the permittee or persons under direct supervision may be in the kitchen during processing; pets implicitly excluded durin...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Washington cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at home, events, and farmers markets within Washington. Internet/mail-order/re...	Direct sales only; no internet, mail order, or retail sales outside Washington State. Products may only be sold within Washington.	Direct-to-consumer sales allowed in person; no internet or mail order sales; no out-of-state sales. Sales at farmers markets, events, and f...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial WSDA permit with annual kitchen inspections. Fee approximately \$125 (ins...	Biennial permit required with inspection. Fee: \$125 inspection + \$75 public health review + \$30 processing. All food handlers must hold foo...	Washington state cottage food law (RCW §69.22) allows home kitchen production of non-potentially hazardous foods with a biennial permit and...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially-hazardous products only. Standard GMP storage requirements.	Nonpotentially-hazardous foods only; CDPH-type approved list (baked goods, jams/jellies, candies, etc.)	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only; must prevent contamination.
POPULATION	207,560	256,143	99,145

State context — Washington cottage food law

Benton County's rules sit on top of Washington's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
RCW §69.22.010–.040	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — Cottage food products may only be sold directly to the consumer. Internet sales, mail order, and retail sale outside Washington state are explicitly prohibited. Products may not be repackaged, sold, or used as an ingredient by a food processing plant, or sold by a food service establishment.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Washington cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/washington.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=69.22.040>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/business-services/food-safety-and-licensing/cottage-food-operations>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/washington/>

Questions about Benton 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/washington/benton-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 Benton County, Washington. 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/washington/benton-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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