

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cowlitz County

Washington · Kelso · FIPS 53015 · Population 110,621 ·
Crosodo Index #2433*

STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22.010-.040; no stated sales cap; permit required (\$125 biennial + \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee); food handler cert required; annual inspection; direct sales only within WA

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

No other persons may handle cottage food products or be in kitchen during processing except permittee or those under direct supervision (RCW §69.22.040).

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: COWLITZ COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2433* · FIPS 53015 · Kelso

Cowlitz County

Population 110,621 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010–.040; no stated sales cap; permit required (\$125 biennial + \$75 public health review + \$30 processing fee); food handler cert required; annual inspection; direct sales only within WA · **MEDIUM**

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

Yes (Washington requires a biennial cottage food operation permit with annual inspection. All food handlers must have food and beverage service worker's permit (RCW §69.06). Applicant must grant director right of entry during normal business hours. Non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies/preserves, and other non-PHF foods allowed. No TCS foods.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No other persons may handle cottage food products or be in kitchen during processing except permittee or those under direct supervision (RCW §69.22.040).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No specific Cowlitz County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Washington state cottage food permit is the primary regulatory requirement. Cowlitz County or city of Kelso/Longview may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Cowlitz County Community Development or city planning.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual basic hygiene inspection required per RCW §69.22. Also pre-operational approval required as part of permit process.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Washington requires a biennial cottage food operation permit with annual inspection. All food handlers must have food and beverage service worker's permit (RCW §69.06). Applicant must grant director right of entry during normal business hours. Non-PHF baked goods, jams/jellies/preserves, and other non-PHF foods allowed. No TCS foods.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No other persons may handle cottage food products or be in kitchen during processing except permittee or those under direct supervision (RCW §69.22.040).
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per state food safety standards.
HANDWASHING	Food and beverage service worker's permit required for all food handlers (RCW §69.06 food handler card).
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products only. No TCS foods, no THC ingredients (0.3% or greater). Products cannot be sold via internet, mail order, or retail outside WA.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual basic hygiene inspection required per RCW §69.22. Also pre-operational approval required as part of permit process.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No specific Cowlitz County home occupation permit requirements found for cottage food. Washington state cottage food permit is the primary regulatory requirement. Cowlitz County or city of Kelso/Longview may have home occupation zoning requirements. Contact Cowlitz County Community Development or city planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Washington allows direct sales only within the state. No internet, mail order, or retail outside WA. Only permittee or those under direct supervision may handle products or be in kitchen during processing.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only permittee or persons under their direct supervision; no outside employees in kitchen during processing.

Relevant county code

RCW §69.22.010-.040; RCW §69.06

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline applied (WA tier Good). Washington has one of the more burdensome cottage food frameworks: annual inspection, biennial permit fees, food handler cards for all handlers, right-of-entry grant required. Cowlitz County is in southwestern WA near the Columbia River and Mount St. Helens (Kelso/Longview area). No county-specific URLs provided. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cowlitzcounty.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/cowlitz-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cowlitz County	Lewis County	Clark County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No other persons may handle cottage food products or be in kitchen during processing except permittee or those under direct supervision (RC...	Kitchen must pass hygiene inspection.	Kitchen must pass WSDA inspection of all permitted areas
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Washington allows direct sales only within the state. No internet, mail order, or retail outside WA. Only permittee or those under direct s...	Direct in-person sales only; no internet, mail order, or out-of-state. Farmers markets, home, and events permitted.	Direct sales within Washington. \$35,000 annual gross cap. No wholesale to stores or restaurants. Online sales permitted. Delivery to consum...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Washington requires a biennial cottage food operation permit with annual inspection. All food handlers must have food and beverage service ...	Same as all Washington counties: biennial permit with initial and annual kitchen inspection. Food handler's permit required for all handler...	Non-potentially hazardous foods only. \$355 permit fee (2-year). Kitchen inspection by WSDA required before permit issued. \$35,000 annual gr...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products only. No TCS foods, no THC ingredients (0.3% or greater). Products cannot be sold via internet, mail order, or retail outs...	Standard food safety storage; inspected annually.	All permitted areas including storage areas inspected by WSDA
POPULATION	110,621	82,663	504,091

State context — Washington cottage food law

Cowlitz 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 Cowlitz 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/cowlitz-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 Cowlitz 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/cowlitz-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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