

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

King County

Washington · Seattle · FIPS 53033 · Population 2,254,371 ·
Crosodo Index #1339*

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

King 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?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

No person other than the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing (state baseline).

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: KING COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1339* · FIPS 53033 · Seattle

King County

Population 2,254,371 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010-.040 · HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (King County operators must obtain a biennial WA State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) cottage food permit before operating. The state permit requires an initial inspection and grants WSDA right of entry to the home during normal business hours. Additionally, WAC 16-149-030(4) requires that operators comply with all applicable county and municipal zoning ordinances and obtain a master business license before permitting. King County Title 21A governs home occupations in unincorporated areas.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No person other than the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing (state baseline).

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (WAC 16-149 requires operators to comply with applicable county/municipal home occupation laws. King County Title 21A.30 regulates home occupations in unincorporated areas. A master business license (from WA Secretary of State) is required statewide before the WSDA permit is issued. For incorporated cities (Seattle, Bellevue, etc.), city-specific home occupation permits may apply.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Biennial inspection required for WSDA permit renewal (initial + biennial). WSDA may also inspect upon complaint or reasonable belief of violation (WAC 16-149-090). King County Public Health does not separately issue cottage food permits.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — King County operators must obtain a biennial WA State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) cottage food permit before operating. The state permit requires an initial inspection and grants WSDA right of entry to the home during normal business hours. Additionally, WAC 16-149-030(4) requires that operators comply with all applicable county and municipal zoning ordinances and obtain a master business license before permitting. King County Title 21A governs home occupations in unincorporated areas.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No person other than the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during processing (state baseline).

WATER SUPPLY

State baseline applies; private well users must pass water quality test as part of state permit application

HANDWASHING

State baseline applies

FOOD STORAGE

State baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Biennial inspection required for WSDA permit renewal (initial + biennial). WSDA may also inspect upon complaint or reasonable belief of violation (WAC 16-149-090). King County Public Health does not separately issue cottage food permits.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — WAC 16-149 requires operators to comply with applicable county/ municipal home occupation laws. King County Title 21A.30 regulates home occupations in unincorporated areas. A master business license (from WA Secretary of State) is required statewide before the WSDA permit is issued. For incorporated cities (Seattle, Bellevue, etc.), city-specific home occupation permits may apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only (no internet/mail order outside the state; no retail establishment sales). Sales must be within Washington State. King County Public Health catering/home-based food service program requires a separate commissary-based permit for catering activities.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	State baseline applies (no non-permittee handling except under direct supervision)

Relevant county code

King County Code Title 21A.30 (Home Occupation standards); WAC 16-149 (WSDA cottage food rules)

RESEARCH NOTES

Washington State is notably more burdensome than most states: biennial permit (\$125 + \$75 public health review fee + \$30 processing fee), annual basic hygiene inspections, right-of-entry requirement. King County operators in unincorporated areas must comply with Title 21A.30 home occupation standards. WAC 16-149-030(4) explicitly requires compliance with all applicable county/ municipal zoning laws and obtaining a master business license before the WSDA permit is issued. Home kitchens cannot be used for catering in King County (requires separate commissary).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health>

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/permitting-environmental-review.aspx>

<https://kingcounty.gov>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx/default.aspx?cite=16-149&full=true&pdf=true>

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/certificates-permits-licenses/food-business-permits/catering-home-based-business-permit>

https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/council/clerk/code/24-30_Title_21A.htm

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	King County	Pierce County	Snohomish County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No person other than the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during p...	State baseline: pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production	State baseline: pets excluded from food preparation areas
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only (no internet/mail order outside the state; no retail establishment sales). Sales must be within Washington St...	Washington cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales only. Sales at farmers markets, events, home, online with delivery. No wholesale to retail...	Direct-to-consumer only: home, farmers markets, events, online with delivery. No wholesale. \$25,000 annual cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	King County operators must obtain a biennial WA State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) cottage food permit before operating. The state perm...	State baseline applies: cottage food operation must be conducted in the home kitchen of the operator's primary residence. \$25,000 annual gr...	State baseline applies. Cottage food must be produced in operator's home kitchen. \$25,000 annual gross sales cap. Non-potentially hazardous...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Standard food storage practices; no county-specific overrides found	Standard food storage
POPULATION	2,254,371	918,993	828,337

State context — Washington cottage food law

King 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 King 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/king-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 King 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/king-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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