

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Thurston County

Washington · Olympia · FIPS 53067 · Population 294,272 ·
Crosodo Index #2390*

STATE BASELINE

RCW §69.22.010-.040; registration required; kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap

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

Thurston 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

Animals excluded from food production area during production

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: THURSTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2390* · FIPS 53067 · Olympia

Thurston County

Population 294,272 · State baseline: RCW §69.22.010–.040; registration required; kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct sales only; no annual sales cap · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (WSDA registration and kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods including baked goods, jams/jellies, candies; labeling required)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Animals excluded from food production area during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (WA does not preempt local zoning. Thurston County (seat: Olympia, state capital) may have home occupation zoning requirements at county or city level. Operator should verify with Thurston County Planning or City of Olympia planning)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required before registration; complaint-based thereafter)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — WSDA registration and kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods including baked goods, jams/jellies, candies; labeling required
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Animals excluded from food production area during production
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; well water testing may be required
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required before registration; complaint-based thereafter
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — WA does not preempt local zoning. Thurston County (seat: Olympia, state capital) may have home occupation zoning requirements at county or city level. Operator should verify with Thurston County Planning or City of Olympia planning
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail or wholesale; no online-only sales without direct delivery
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

WA requires registration and kitchen inspection — notable restriction. Thurston County includes Olympia (state capital). No county-specific overlay beyond state rules found.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Thurston County	Pierce County	Lewis County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Animals excluded from food production area during production	State baseline: pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production	Kitchen must pass hygiene inspection.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Upon-complaint	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct to consumer only; farmers markets, events, roadside stands; no retail or wholesale; no online-only sales without direct delivery	Washington cottage food: direct-to-consumer sales only. Sales at farmers markets, events, home, online with delivery. No wholesale to retail...	Direct in-person sales only; no internet, mail order, or out-of-state. Farmers markets, home, and events permitted.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	WSDA registration and kitchen inspection required; food handler card required; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods including baked goods...	State baseline applies: cottage food operation must be conducted in the home kitchen of the operator's primary residence. \$25,000 annual gr...	Same as all Washington counties: biennial permit with initial and annual kitchen inspection. Food handler's permit required for all handler...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions	Standard food storage practices; no county-specific overrides found	Standard food safety storage; inspected annually.
POPULATION	294,272	918,993	82,663

State context — Washington cottage food law

Thurston 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 Thurston 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/thurston-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 Thurston 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/thurston-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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