

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Buncombe County, North Carolina?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-05.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Conditional

SALES CAP

—

NORTH CAROLINA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[North Carolina permits PDF](#)

[North Carolina cottage food law page](#)

[North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services cottage food program](#)

[Statute: 02 NCAC 9C.0307](#)

NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Buncombe County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Buncombe County, North Carolina. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Yes

LOCAL HEALTH

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Conditional

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Conditional

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

CONTINUE ONLINE

North Carolina permits PDF →

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf>

North Carolina cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina>

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/north-carolina/buncombe-county>

Buncombe County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/buncombe-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

North Carolina registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: Yes. Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.

North Carolina permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Statute: [02 NCAC 9C.0307](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Yes. Buncombe County requires a Home Occupation Permit (BNC Home Occupation form). Conditions: must be in dwelling or accessory structure; occupation incidental/secondary to residence; no more than 25% of floor space; no outside storage or visible evidence of business; no excessive traffic; max 2 non-resident employees; no nuisance equipment or processes; unlighted sign only, max 2 sq ft.

Planning: <https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/PDS/development/zoning.aspx>

Health

Yes. Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required; initial and yearly re-inspection

Business license

Conditional

Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online); annual inspection report serves as authorization. City of Asheville has separate municipal zoning rules.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

NCDA or the local health department, depending on the food. North Carolina home processors register with NCDA. A commissary used as a food service kitchen is typically permitted by the local health department; a food manufacturing plant is NCDA. Ask the kitchen which license they operate under.

Official source: [NCDHHS food protection](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.buncombecounty.org>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

SOURCES

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/PDS/development/zoning.aspx>

<https://www.buncombecounty.org>

<https://www.buncombenc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1496/Home-Occupation-Permit-PDF>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/food-drug-food-program-home-processor>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-and-drug-protection/home-processor-inspections>

Buncombe County and nearby places

Regulation	Buncombe County	Henderson County	Rutherford County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant from the NC home processor program	Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant for a home processor permit. Complete pet prohibition.	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online); annual inspection report serves as authorization. ...	North Carolina allows direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants). No sales cap. Shelf-stable only.	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no online shipping restriction; products must be shelf-stable
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS before operating. Pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant entirely. Kitche...	North Carolina requires annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets anywhere in the home disqualify the applicant. Henderson County follows ...	NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products	Shelf-stable products only. Acidified foods require pH/ water activity testing.	Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required
POPULATION	269,449	116,469	64,680

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

North Carolina permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf

North Carolina cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina

Buncombe County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/buncombe-county