

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Durham 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

Yes

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 Durham County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Durham 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

Yes

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Yes

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/durham-county>

Durham County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/durham-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. City of Durham requires a Home Occupation Permit (\$52 fee) for home-based businesses. Application submitted through Durham Planning & Development portal at durhamnc.gov/4760/Home-Occupation-Permit. Business must first be registered with NC Secretary of State

Health

Yes. Initial inspection before operating; subsequent complaint-based inspections possible

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales; retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online all permitted within NC

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.dconc.gov>

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.dconc.gov>

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

<https://www.durhamnc.gov/4760/Home-Occupation-Permit>

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/north-carolina/>

Durham County and nearby places

Regulation	Durham County	Orange County	Chatham County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets or animals in the home at any time — strict NC requirement	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from a Home Processor permit. No pets allowed in the residence where cottage food is produced.	Pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program — this is a strict statewide requirement per 02 NCAC 9C.0307.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales; retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online all permitted within NC	Direct sales and indirect sales allowed (no sales cap). Permitted venues: farm, farm stand, farmers market, other direct-to-consumer and so...	Direct and indirect sales permitted. No sales cap. Products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and through other chan...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Initial home kitchen inspection required; no pets/ animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate building)...	North Carolina requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS and registration (Home Processor permit). No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-st...	Shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Products in compliant packaging required.	Shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately. Products requiring refrigeration prohibited.
POPULATION	325,101	145,919	76,754

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

Durham County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/durham-county