

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Guilford 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

Varies

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

What you need

Guilford 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

Varies

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/guilford-county>

Guilford County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/guilford-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. NC NCDA&CS Home Processor program requires producers to 'contact your local planning/zoning department to determine if you are permitted to operate a food business from your home and if permits are required.' Guilford County Home Occupation Bulletin retrieved from official guilfordcountync.gov confirms: Home occupations permitted in AG, RS, RM, MXU, NB zones; requires Home Occupation Permit via Guilford County EPL (Civic Access Portal); food catering is listed as a permitted example; up to 25% of gross floor area; no outdoor storage; one 4 sq ft freestanding sign (no permit needed); one non-occupant employee may work at residence; must contact Planner at 336-641-3334. Also check with HOA/leasing office.

Health

Yes. Annual kitchen inspection required before and during operation. Inspectors from NC Department of Agriculture conduct inspections. Notice of Inspection provided; major violations may disqualify from home-based food business.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct sales to consumers, wholesale to retail stores and restaurants. No annual sales cap. Buyers may come to home for pickup. Online sales and delivery permitted within North Carolina. Interstate sales allowed through some channels.

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.guilfordcountync.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.guilfordcountync.gov>

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/media/425/download?attachment=>

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

Guilford County and nearby places

Regulation	Guilford County	Forsyth County	Alamance County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets prohibited in home kitchen; indoor pets are considered pests and are not permitted under NC home processing program	Pets anywhere in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program.	Pets in home disqualify applicant entirely per GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers, wholesale to retail stores and restaurants. No annual sales cap. Buyers may come to home for pickup. Online sale...	Direct and indirect sales permitted (NC allows wholesale). Online and mail order permitted. Annual inspection required for all sales. No sa...	Direct sales at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online permitted. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual inspection of home kitchen required by NC Department of Agriculture. Pets prohibited from home kitchen during food preparation/stora...	North Carolina Home Processor program (02 NCAC 9C.0307) requires annual registration with NCDA&CS and annual home kitchen inspection. Allow...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Shelf-stable, low-risk foo...
FOOD STORAGE	Kitchen must be in main home dwelling only; no detached structures	Shelf-stable non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.
POPULATION	539,557	383,739	171,779

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

Guilford County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/guilford-county