

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies

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

What you need

Lee 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

Varies

LOCAL HEALTH

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

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/lee-county>

Lee County cottage food law page →

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

Varies. Lee County includes Sanford in the NC Sandhills region. No specific county-level home occupation permit for cottage food identified. Contact Lee County Planning at (919) 718-4646.

Health

Yes. Annual inspection by NCDA&CS

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales allowed; no sales cap; products must be shelf-stable

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.leecounty.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.leecounty.gov>

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

Lee County and nearby places

Regulation	Lee County	Chatham County	Moore County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program	Pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program — this is a strict statewide requirement per 02 NCAC 9C.0307.	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration. No animals permitted per GMP requirements (21 CFR 1...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no sales cap; products must be shelf-stable	Direct and indirect sales permitted. No sales cap. Products may be sold at farmers markets, roadside stands, online, and through other chan...	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap.	Shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Annual home kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely.	North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted inc...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required	Shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately. Products requiring refrigeration prohibited.	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/ non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, s...
POPULATION	63,560	76,754	100,759

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

Lee County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/lee-county