

## COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

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| STATE FOOD PERMIT | HOME OCCUPATION | BUSINESS LICENSE | SALES CAP |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Yes               | Yes             | Varies           | —         |

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

## What you need

Lenoir 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/lenoir-county>

**Lenoir County cottage food law page →**

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/lenoir-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](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf)

State law page: [crosodo.com/states/north-carolina](https://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. NCDA&CS home processor registration required (annual fee; annual kitchen inspection). No separate Lenoir County-specific permit identified. Contact NCDA&CS Division of Food and Drug Protection for home processor program.

### Health

Yes. Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required for all home processor registrations.

### Business license

Varies

### Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales (retail, wholesale) permitted. Online sales and shipping within NC allowed.

### 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.lenoircounty.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.

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### SOURCES

<https://www.lenoircounty.gov>

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

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## Lenoir County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Lenoir County                                                                                                                                         | Duplin County                                                                                                                                  | Greene County                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                                   | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                    | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Pet animals in the home <b>DISQUALIFY</b> the applicant entirely under NC home processor rules (per GMP requirements, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). This ... | Pets absolutely prohibited in the home at any time — disqualifies applicant from program.                                                      | No pets allowed in the home at all — any pets in the home disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.                         |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                                   | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                                   | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                           | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct and indirect sales (retail, wholesale) permitted. Online sales and shipping within NC allowed.                                                 | Products may be sold at retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, and directly to consumers.                                                | Direct sales permitted at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, online, restaurants, and retail stores within North Carolina.                |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Yes                                                                                                                                                   | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                                | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk non-refrigerated foods including baked goods, ...        | Home kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection before production begins. No pets allowed in home at any time. Kitchen must meet 21 CFR 117 Subpa... | Home kitchen must pass annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only. Sauces and dehydrated foods may require pH or water activity testing.                                   | Only shelf-stable products; no refrigerated products permitted.                                                                                | All products must be shelf-stable. No refrigeration required for finished products. Ingredients and products stored per good manufacturing ... |
| POPULATION                 | 55,071                                                                                                                                                | 49,312                                                                                                                                         | 20,862                                                                                                                                         |

## 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](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf)

North Carolina cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/north-carolina](https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina)

Lenoir County cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/lenoir-county](https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/lenoir-county)