

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

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

What you need

Lincoln 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

Conditional

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/lincoln-county>

Lincoln County cottage food law page →

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

Conditional. NCDA&CS home processor application (Step 4) explicitly requires checking with local/county planning department to verify permission to operate a food business from the home. Lincoln County Planning Department should be consulted. HOA rules should also be checked.

Health

Yes. Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist required. Initial inspection arranged 8-12 weeks after application. Subsequent annual inspections required to maintain home processor status. A 'Notice of Inspection' is provided (not a permit). Major violations may disqualify the operation.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection. No interstate sales.

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.lincolncounty.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.lincolncounty.gov>

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

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processor-app-pdf/download?attachment=>

Lincoln County and nearby places

Regulation	Lincoln County	Burke County	Cleveland County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from operating a home-based food business under NC Home Processor program. This i...	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.	PETS IN THE HOME DISQUALIFY APPLICANTS ENTIRELY for the NC Home Processor registration.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection. No interstate sales.	Same as all NC counties: sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspect...	Direct-to-consumer and some wholesale/retail sales permitted within North Carolina. Online and delivery sales permitted within state.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires a home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) disqualify the applicant entire...	Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify a...	North Carolina home processor program requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Shelf-stable, low-risk foods permitted inc...
FOOD STORAGE	Storage plan for supplies, equipment, and finished product must be provided with application. Areas where materials, ingredients, and equip...	Detailed storage plan required with application. All storage areas inspected.	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated/ non-frozen products only. Prohibited: refrigerated/frozen products, low-acid canned foods, dairy products, s...
POPULATION	87,933	87,799	99,527

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

Lincoln County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/lincoln-county