

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in New Hanover 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

Conditional

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

What you need

New Hanover 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

Conditional

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/new-hanover-county>

New Hanover County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/new-hanover-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. New Hanover County and City of Wilmington may require home occupation permits under local zoning. NC home processor application step 4 requires checking with local planning/zoning. Check with New Hanover County Planning & Land Use.

Health

Yes. Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required

Business license

Conditional

Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after annual inspection. Wilmington city limits have municipal zoning.

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.nhcgov.com>

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.nhcgov.com>

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

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

New Hanover County and nearby places

Regulation	New Hanover County	Brunswick County	Pender County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant	No pets allowed in the home — any pets disqualify the applicant from the NC home processor program.	No pets allowed in the home at all — presence of pet animals in the home disqualifies the applicant under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subp...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after annual inspection. Wilmington city limits have municipal zoning.	Direct and indirect sales permitted within NC. Sales from home, farmers markets, roadside stands, restaurants, and retail stores allowed.	Sales permitted at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, home delivery, and online (within NC). Indirect sales to stores permit...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant. Kitchen must be in the dwelling. Shelf-s...	Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Products must be shelf-stable; no refrigerated o...	NC state law requires annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant entirely. Shelf-stable, low-risk...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products	Shelf-stable only; products stored per good manufacturing practices.	Shelf-stable storage required; products must be non-refrigerated.
POPULATION	228,134	139,721	61,592

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

New Hanover County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/new-hanover-county