

## COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

# Can I sell from my kitchen in Union 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 Union County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

## What you need

Union 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/union-county>

**Union County cottage food law page →**

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/union-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. Union County Planning Department likely requires home occupation permit per NC state law requirement to check with local planning/zoning (step 4 of NC NCDA&CS home processor application process). Check with Union County Planning & Development.

### Health

Yes. Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required; initial and yearly

### Business license

Conditional

### Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after inspection. City of Monroe has 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.unioncountync.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.unioncountync.gov>

<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>

## Union County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Union County                                                                                                                                   | Cabarrus County                                                                                                                                | Stanly 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                                                               | Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet p... | Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant entirely from the NC Home Processor program                                               |
| 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 inspection. City of Monroe has municipal zoning.                        | NC home processors may sell directly to consumers, at events, farmers markets, retail stores, and restaurants. No internet-only mail-order ... | Direct and indirect sales allowed; no sales cap; products must be shelf-stable                                                      |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                              |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                              |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling... | North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se... | NC requires annual inspection by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements. No sales cap. |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products                                                                                    | Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products may be stored. Areas used for material/ingredient/equipment storage are included in t... | Shelf-stable low-risk foods; proper storage required                                                                                |
| POPULATION                 | 240,109                                                                                                                                        | 226,396                                                                                                                                        | 62,723                                                                                                                              |

## 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)

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