

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Wake 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 by city

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

What you need

Wake 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 by city

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/wake-county>

Wake County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/wake-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 guidance requires operators to check local zoning and licensing requirements with their local government. Wake County municipalities (Raleigh, Cary, Apex, etc.) have their own home occupation ordinances. No specific Wake County-level permit found for cottage food.

Health

Yes. NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant within 8-12 weeks to arrange a home kitchen inspection. Annual inspection required for renewal. Wake County EHS does not regulate low-risk home processed foods.

Business license

Varies by city

Pickup / delivery

Indirect sales to retail stores and restaurants allowed. No sales cap. Products may be sold statewide. Wake County EHS notes that commissaries/shared kitchens are available as alternatives for TCS food production.

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.wake.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.wake.gov>

<https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/environmental-health-safety/regulated-facilities/home-based-food-production-guidelines>

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

Wake County and nearby places

Regulation	Wake County	Durham County	Johnston County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets in the home — not just during production, but at any time. This is a state rule (21 CFR 117 Subpart B GMP). Indoor pets constitute ...	No pets or animals in the home at any time — strict NC requirement	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements (21 CF...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Indirect sales to retail stores and restaurants allowed. No sales cap. Products may be sold statewide. Wake County EHS notes that commissar...	Direct and indirect sales; retail stores, restaurants, farmers markets, online all permitted within NC	NC home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. No internet-sale prohibition at state level. Verify l...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Wake County follows NC state baseline: home processors are regulated by NCDA&CS, which requires an annual kitchen inspection before approva...	Initial home kitchen inspection required; no pets/ animals in home at any time; kitchen must be in primary residence (not separate building)...	North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Shelf-stable foods stored in sanitary conditions	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products permitted. Standard GMP storage. Ingredient/material storage areas inspected.
POPULATION	1,132,103	325,101	219,042

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

Wake County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/wake-county