

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT	HOME OCCUPATION	BUSINESS LICENSE	SALES CAP
Yes	Yes	Yes	—

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

What you need

Watauga 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

Yes

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/watauga-county>

Watauga County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/watauga-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. NCDA&CS home processor registration required (annual, with annual inspection). In Town of Boone: Home Occupation Permit required under Town of Boone Unified Development Ordinance Section 15.53. Boone restrictions: only resident family members (no outside employees); home use max 25% of floor area; no external business evidence except permitted signage; no excess traffic or parking; no noise/vibration/odor detectable off lot. On-premise sale/delivery of goods not produced in the home is prohibited. Application fee required. Contact Town of Boone Planning & Inspections. Outside Boone town limits: Watauga County Planning and Development Ordinance applies.

Planning: https://www.wataugacounty.org/App_Pages/Dept/Planning/ordinances.aspx

Health

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

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

Direct and indirect sales permitted under NC program. Within Town of Boone: customers visiting home may trigger home occupation restrictions on traffic; confirm with Boone Planning. Delivery 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.wataugacounty.org>

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.wataugacounty.org/App_Pages/Dept/Planning/ordinances.aspx

<https://www.wataugacounty.org>

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

https://www.wataugacounty.org/App_Pages/Dept/Planning/ordinances.aspx

<https://townofboone.net/DocumentCenter/View/970/Home-Occupation-Application-PDF>

Watauga County and nearby places

Regulation	Watauga County	Wilkes County	Caldwell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pet animals in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant for NC home processor registration (state rule). Town of Boone home occupation rules also ...	Pets in the home DISQUALIFY the applicant from the NC Home Processor program entirely	Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales permitted under NC program. Within Town of Boone: customers visiting home may trigger home occupation restriction...	Direct and indirect sales allowed; no online shipping restriction; products must be shelf-stable	Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. No sales cap. Allowed: shelf-stable, low-risk foods. Pets in home disqualify applicant. Town...	NC requires annual inspection of the home kitchen by NCDA&CS. Pets in the home disqualify applicants. Kitchen must meet GMP requirements (2...	Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify appli...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products only.	Shelf-stable foods only; proper storage away from contaminants	Detailed storage plan required. All storage areas inspected.
POPULATION	54,540	66,125	80,716

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

Watauga County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/watauga-county