

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Nelson County, Virginia?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-06.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Varies

BUSINESS LICENSE

Likely

SALES CAP

Tiered

VIRGINIA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Virginia permits PDF](#)[Virginia cottage food law page](#)[Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services cottage food program](#)[Statute: Va. Code §3.2-5130 \(HB 402 / 2026 c. 605\)](#)**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Nelson County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Nelson County, Virginia. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

ANNUAL SALES CAP

Tiered

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Varies

LOCAL HEALTH

No

BUSINESS LICENSE

Likely

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

Virginia permits PDF →

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/virginia.pdf>

Virginia cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/virginia>

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/virginia/nelson-county>

Nelson County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/virginia/nelson-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

Virginia registration: No. Routine kitchen inspection: No. As amended by HB 402 (Acts of Assembly 2026 Ch. 605), effective July 1, 2026: exempt foods may be sold at any location, through the internet, or by phone to an individual in Virginia for their own consumption, and delivered in person, by mail, or by delivery service in Virginia. Still no resale, consignment, restaurants, retail food establishments, or out-of-state sales. Local zoning still applies. The VDACS home-food-processor FAQ PDF is stale (still says no online sales); the statute controls. <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB402>

Virginia permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/virginia.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/virginia

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

Statute: [Va. Code §3.2-5130 \(HB 402 / 2026 c. 605\)](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Varies. Virginia state cottage food law requires no permit. Nelson County may require a local business license. Contact Nelson County administrator for local requirements.

Health

No. VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint.

Business license

Likely

Pickup / delivery

Direct sales only at home, farmers markets, or temporary events (up to 14 consecutive days). No online ordering, no shipping, no wholesale.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

VDACS treats a commercial kitchen as a food-processing operation. Virginia cottage food is a home exemption. A commissary or commercial kitchen that manufactures food for sale needs a VDACS inspection and permit. VDACS publishes a commercial-kitchen food-processing application. Local health departments permit restaurants and similar food establishments.

Official source: [VDACS home and commercial kitchen businesses](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.nelsoncounty.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.nelsoncounty.com>

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/3.2-5130/>

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-information-for-vendors-and-businesses-home-food-processors.shtml>

Nelson County and nearby places

Regulation	Nelson County	Appomattox County	Buckingham County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales only at home, farmers markets, or temporary events (up to 14 consecutive days). No online ordering, no shipping, no wholesale.	Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets and temporary events (events capped at 14 consecutive days). No online sale...	Sales allowed only at the producer's home or at farmers markets and temporary events (events capped at 14 consecutive days). No online sale...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	No	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Likely	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia Home Kitchen Food Processing Exemption (Va. Code §3.2-5130) permits direct-to-consumer sale of non-TCS shelf-stable foods from a p...	Va. Code §3.2-5130 provides the home kitchen food processing exemption. No permit, registration, or inspection required at the state level....	Va. Code §3.2-5130 provides the home kitchen food processing exemption. No permit, registration, or inspection required at the state level....
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS), shelf-stable foods only.	Non-potentially hazardous (non-TCS), shelf-stable foods only.
POPULATION	14,773	16,253	16,869

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

Virginia permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/virginia.pdf

Virginia cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/virginia

Nelson County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/virginia/nelson-county