

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

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

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

No

HOME OCCUPATION

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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

What you need

Stafford 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

Yes

LOCAL HEALTH

Upon-complaint

BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

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/stafford-county>

[Stafford County cottage food law page →](#)

<https://crosodo.com/states/virginia/stafford-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

Yes. VDACS application requires written documentation of zoning approval from the local zoning office before processing. Stafford County has zoning rules for home occupations. Must provide proof of zoning approval for the VDACS permit pathway. The §3.2-5130 cottage food exemption also benefits from zoning compliance.

Health

Upon-complaint. VDACS may inspect upon consumer complaint. No routine inspection for §3.2-5130 exemption; initial inspection required for VDACS Home Food Processing permit.

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

Under §3.2-5130 exemption: direct-to-consumer sales only; no resale to food establishments. Under VDACS permit: direct sales and some wholesale allowed. No interstate sales under either pathway.

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://staffordcountyva.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://staffordcountyva.gov>

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

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/homefdapplication.pdf>

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

Stafford County and nearby places

Regulation	Stafford County	Spotsylvania County	Fauquier County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	If pets are present, food processing and storage areas must be completely enclosed/ separated from the rest of the home with a solid hinged ...	Not prohibited by state statute; kitchen must maintain sanitary conditions.	Not specified in state statute.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Under §3.2-5130 exemption: direct-to-consumer sales only; no resale to food establishments. Under VDACS permit: direct sales and some whole...	Direct sales only per state law. Sales from home, at farmers markets, roadside stands, online (local delivery), and similar venues. No resa...	Direct sales to consumers only. No resale or consignment. No sales to retail food establishments.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Virginia has two pathways: (1) Va. Code §3.2-5130 cottage food exemption — no registration or inspection for direct-to-consumer sales of no...	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No registration required at state level for most cottage foods. Pickles and acidified vegetables capped at...	Home kitchen in primary domestic residence allowed. Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. Pickles and acidified vegetables subject to \$9,000 ann...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only under cottage food exemption. Proper storage to prevent contamination.	Shelf-stable non-TCS products only. Products stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS shelf-stable products must be stored appropriately.
POPULATION	157,606	141,097	73,290

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

Stafford County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/virginia/stafford-county