

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Whatcom County, Washington?

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

SALES CAP

—

WASHINGTON RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Washington permits PDF](#)

[Washington cottage food law page](#)

[Washington State Department of Agriculture cottage food program](#)

[Statute: RCW §69.22.010-.040](#)

NOT LEGAL ADVICE

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

What you need

Whatcom County, Washington. 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

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

Washington permits PDF →

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

Washington cottage food law page →

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

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/washington/whatcom-county>

Whatcom County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/washington/whatcom-county>

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

Where to file

State

Washington registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: Yes. Cottage food products may only be sold directly to the consumer. Internet sales, mail order, and retail sale outside Washington state are explicitly prohibited. Products may not be repackaged, sold, or used as an ingredient by a food processing plant, or sold by a food service establishment.

Washington permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/washington.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/washington

Washington State Department of Agriculture: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/business-services/food-safety-and-licensing/cottage-food-operations>

Statute: [RCW §69.22.010-.040](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Conditional. Whatcom County (unincorporated areas): home-based businesses allowed in residential zones as accessory use; home occupation permit and/or business license may be required. Per Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning), amended April 2025 (Ordinance 2025-020), home-based businesses are regulated by type (Type I through IV). Type I (no on-site clients, no permit needed in most zones) may apply to some cottage food operations. Type II/III require conditional use permits. Cities within Whatcom County (Bellingham, Lynden, Ferndale) have their own separate rules.

Health

Yes. Annual basic hygiene inspections required by Washington State Department of Agriculture as a condition of permit. Permittee must sign document granting WSDA right of entry to home during normal business hours.

Health: <https://www.whatcomcounty.gov/health>

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Washington state cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, and from home. Online sales and mail order within Washington are limited (statute restricts internet/mail-order/retail sales outside state). Home pickup is allowed.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

Local health licenses food establishments. WSDA licenses cottage food. Washington cottage food is a WSDA permit for a home kitchen. A commissary is a food establishment permitted by the local health jurisdiction.

Official source: [WA DOH food](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.whatcomcounty.gov/health>

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.whatcomcounty.gov/health>

<https://www.whatcomcounty.gov>

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/business-services/food-safety-and-licensing/cottage-food-operations>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=69.22.040>

<https://whatcom.legistar.com/View.ashx?GUID=E5C51132-6F9B-47F6-B38D-ACEF8D23716A&ID=14108620&M=F>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/whatcom-county-wa>

Whatcom County and nearby places

Regulation	Whatcom County	Skagit County	Okanogan County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Washington state cottage food rules prohibit anyone other than the permittee and persons under their direct supervision in the kitchen duri...	No one other than the permittee or persons under their direct supervision may handle cottage food products or be in the kitchen during proc...	Persons other than the permittee and those under their direct supervision are prohibited in the kitchen during production per RCW §69.22. P...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Washington state cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, and from home. Online sales and mail order w...	Direct sales only; no internet or mail order sales permitted. Sales only within Washington state. No one other than permittee or persons un...	Washington state cottage food law permits direct-to-consumer sales at farmers markets, events, and from home. Online sales and mail order o...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Washington state law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial permit from the Washington State Department of Agriculture for cottage food operation...	Biennial permit required with fees: \$125 inspection fee + \$75 public health review fee + \$30 processing fee (\$230 total biennial). All food...	Washington state law (RCW §69.22) requires a biennial permit from the Washington State Department of Agriculture for cottage food operation...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage requirements per Washington food safety rules; products must be non-potentially hazardous.	Non-potentially hazardous baked goods, candies, jams/jellies/preserves/fruit butters, and other items identified by director by rule. No TH...	Standard food storage requirements per Washington food safety rules; products must be non-potentially hazardous.
POPULATION	226,523	129,480	42,243

More pages for this place

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

Washington permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/washington.pdf

Washington cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/washington

Whatcom County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/washington/whatcom-county