

HOME COTTAGE-FOOD PERMITS

What permits do I need to open a micro bakery in Virginia?

State exemption first, then county and independent-city overlays. Home kitchen path only — not a storefront or commissary.

STATE REGISTRATION

No

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

PLACES COVERED

134

LAST VERIFIED

2026-08-19

VIRGINIA RULES

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

This is a research checklist for the **home cottage-food** path. Local zoning still applies even when the state requires no food permit. Not legal advice.

State layer — what is not required

Registration: No. Routine inspection: No. Sales cap: Tiered.

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/2026/HB402>

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 \(HB 402 / 2026 c. 605\)](#)

Live state law page: crosodo.com/states/virginia. Pick a county or independent city for the local stack: crosodo.com/what-permits.

Virginia counties and independent cities

Each place has its own zoning and license overlay. Independent cities are listed separately from the surrounding county.

Place	Home occupation	Business license	Pickup
Bedford city	No	Varies	Yes
Charlottesville city	No	Varies	Yes
Bristol city	No	Varies	Yes
Covington city	No	Varies	Yes
Colonial Heights city	No	Varies	Yes
Buena Vista city	No	Varies	Yes
Alleghany County	No	Varies	Yes
Bland County	No	Varies	Yes
Bath County	No	Varies	Yes
Appomattox County	No	Varies	Yes
Amherst County	No	Varies	Yes
Amelia County	No	Varies	Yes
Accomack County	No	Varies	Yes
Botetourt County	No	Varies	Yes
Brunswick County	No	Varies	Yes
Buchanan County	No	Varies	Yes
Buckingham County	No	Varies	Yes
Caroline County	No	Varies	Yes
Carroll County	No	Varies	Yes
Charles City County	No	Varies	Yes
Charlotte County	No	Varies	Yes
Clarke County	No	Varies	Yes

Place	Home occupation	Business license	Pickup
Craig County	No	Varies	Yes
Cumberland County	No	Varies	Yes
Culpeper County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Henry County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Montgomery County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Harrisonburg city	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Henrico County	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Hanover County	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
Lynchburg city	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
Orange County	Conditional	No	Conditional
Fredericksburg city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Galax city	Varies	Likely	Yes
Hopewell city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Lexington city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Manassas city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Manassas Park city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Martinsville city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Norton city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Lancaster County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Nottoway County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Northumberland County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Northampton County	Varies	Likely	Yes
New Kent County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Nelson County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Middlesex County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Mecklenburg County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Mathews County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Lunenburg County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Louisa County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Lee County	Varies	Likely	Yes
King William County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Emporia city	Varies	Likely	Yes
King George County	Varies	Likely	Yes
King and Queen County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Isle of Wight County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Highland County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Halifax County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Greensville County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Greene County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Grayson County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Goochland County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Gloucester County	Varies	Likely	Yes

Place	Home occupation	Business license	Pickup
Giles County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Danville city	Varies	Likely	Yes
Falls Church city	Likely	Likely	Yes
Floyd County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Fluvanna County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Essex County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Dinwiddie County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Dickenson County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Franklin city	Varies	Likely	Yes
Madison County	Varies	Likely	Yes
Fauquier County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Hampton city	Varies	Varies	Yes
Spotsylvania County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Augusta County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Rockingham County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Bedford County	Varies	Varies	Yes
James City County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Franklin County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Washington County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Campbell County	Varies	Varies	Yes
Albemarle County	Yes	Yes	Conditional
Prince William County	Yes	Yes	Conditional
York County	Yes	Yes	Conditional
Surry County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Tazewell County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Page County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Patrick County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Powhatan County	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
Prince Edward County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Prince George County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Pulaski County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Sussex County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Rappahannock County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Richmond County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Rockbridge County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Russell County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Scott County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Shenandoah County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Smyth County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Southampton County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Westmoreland County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Warren County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional

Place	Home occupation	Business license	Pickup
Wise County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Williamsburg city	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Winchester city	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Waynesboro city	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Staunton city	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Salem city	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Poquoson city	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Radford city	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Wythe County	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
Chesapeake city	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Norfolk city	Conditional	Varies	Yes
Pittsylvania County	Varies	Varies	Conditional
Newport News city	Yes	Yes	Conditional
Roanoke city	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
Roanoke County	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
Fairfax city	Yes	Yes	Check zoning
Arlington County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richmond city	Yes	Yes	Conditional
Virginia Beach city	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
Suffolk city	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
Frederick County	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
Chesterfield County	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
Petersburg city	Yes	Yes	Conditional
Portsmouth city	Yes	Yes	Conditional
Loudoun County	Yes	Yes	Conditional
Fairfax County	Yes	Yes	No
Stafford County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alexandria city	Yes	Yes	Conditional