

# Tips for Making and Bottling Your Own Sauces

## Food Business Resources

Here's a guide from the NC Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services regarding home-based food businesses (also contains good reference links and info on labeling):

- <http://www.ncagr.gov/fooddrug/food/homebiz.htm>

It may be worth checking out Blue Ridge Food Ventures:

- [http://www.advantagewest.com/content.cfm/content\\_id/144/section/food](http://www.advantagewest.com/content.cfm/content_id/144/section/food)
- they are located in Candler, NC. They have a full scale commercial kitchen and work with individuals and small companies to guide the development of ag products in NC – they are recommended by the NC Dept of Ag
- They offer a good variety of classes that may be of interest to you, especially one titled “Starting Your Specialty Food Business” – it’s \$50 and the next class is in October, find info near the bottom of the page at this link :  
<http://www2.abtech.edu/schedule/ce/fall/index.php?title=&category=Business+-+Start-up&location=All&month=All>

I’ve found online forums to be helpful for my wine-making, here’s a BBQ forum that has a section on catering, food handling and awareness that had some posts regarding bottling:

- <http://www.bbq-brethren.com/forum/index.php>

## A few comments regarding bottling:

- Check this thread on the bbq-brethren site, it has info on sealing bottles:
  - <http://www.bbq-brethren.com/forum/showthread.php?t=103522>
- Consider plastic, it’s both cheaper initially and cheaper to ship.
- If you want glass, be prepared to pay \$\$ in shipping or order from somewhere close enough to pick it up yourself.

## Sources for bottles

- Inmark, Inc.
  - [http://www.inmarkinc.com/glass\\_bottles.htm](http://www.inmarkinc.com/glass_bottles.htm)
  - They are in Greensboro, no prices on website, but you could possibly save a small fortune on shipping if they will let you pick them up directly from Greensboro. Glass bottles in large quantities are very heavy and expensive to ship
- Freund Container & Supply
  - [http://www.freundcontainer.com/category.asp\\_Q\\_c\\_E\\_398](http://www.freundcontainer.com/category.asp_Q_c_E_398)
- Ed Luce Packaging
  - [http://www.essentialsupplies.com/~smartcart/cgi/display.cgi?item\\_num=Bar-B-Q&dept=Glass](http://www.essentialsupplies.com/~smartcart/cgi/display.cgi?item_num=Bar-B-Q&dept=Glass)
- Bottles.us
  - [http://www.bottles.us/xq/asp.bs/familyid.321/bottlestyle.BARBECUE\\_SAUCE\\_ROUND\\_PLASTIC\\_-\\_PVC/qx/BARBECUE-SAUCE-ROUND-PLASTIC---PVC.htm](http://www.bottles.us/xq/asp.bs/familyid.321/bottlestyle.BARBECUE_SAUCE_ROUND_PLASTIC_-_PVC/qx/BARBECUE-SAUCE-ROUND-PLASTIC---PVC.htm)
  - [http://www.bottles.us/xq/asp.bs/familyid.334/bottlestyle.BARBECUE\\_SAUCE\\_ROUND\\_-\\_GLASS\\_/qx/BARBECUE-SAUCE-ROUND---GLASS-.htm](http://www.bottles.us/xq/asp.bs/familyid.334/bottlestyle.BARBECUE_SAUCE_ROUND_-_GLASS_/qx/BARBECUE-SAUCE-ROUND---GLASS-.htm)
- SKS Bottle
  - <http://www.sks-bottle.com/340c/fin48c.html>
  - <http://www.sks-bottle.com/Food-Containers.html>
- E-Bottles.com
  - <http://www.ebottles.com/showbottles.asp?familyid=1309&kw=SALAD+DRESSING++CLEAR+PET+PLASTIC>

## Co-Packers:

- If your sauce really takes off, you might consider using a co-packer – you give them the recipe and they order/chop/grind/mix (whatever), bottle and label it – and their insurance covers it if there is ever a sanitation problem – More info from NC State:  
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/foodsci/ext/pubs/copackers.html>
- Here are some co-packers in NC: <http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/specfoods/Co-Packers.html> (they list Quinn Specialty Products in Dunn, but no contact info – Quinn is the copacker for “Bone Suckin’ Sauce”)