

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Connecticut

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a.

| STATUTE | TIER | IJ GRADE | COUNTIES COVERED |
|---------------------------|------|----------|------------------|
| Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a | Okay | D | 8 |

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05**IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above. **Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision.** Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Executive summary | 3 |
| Connecticut Cottage Food Operation Law (PA 18-141) — Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a | 4 |
| County-level rules (8 counties) | 6 |
| #9999 Fairfield County | 6 |
| #9999 Hartford County | 8 |
| #9999 Litchfield County | 9 |
| #9999 Middlesex County | 11 |
| #9999 New Haven County | 12 |
| #9999 New London County | 14 |
| #9999 Tolland County | 16 |
| #9999 Windham County | 17 |

Executive summary

This report covers the Connecticut cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 8 Connecticut counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

50000

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

yes (specific course)

DIRECT SALES ONLY

yes

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

yes

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

no — Indirect sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; mail order and third-party delivery services are prohibited; only the producer or their designee may deliver within Connecticut.

RESEARCH NOTES

Connecticut's cottage food law (PA 18-141 / SB 193) went into effect October 1, 2018, after years of failed attempts. The 2022 amendment (SB 187) increased the annual sales limit from \$25,000 to \$50,000. License fee is \$50 (law caps at \$100), renewable annually by February 28. A home inspection is required before receiving the license; the DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time. Producers must take a ServSafe Food Handler course (\$15 online). Products must be from the approved foods list; requests to add new items can be submitted to DCP. Private well or septic users face additional testing requirements. The farmers-market-only restriction mentioned in the input notes is historical; current law allows sales at events, farmers markets, home, online (with local delivery only), and roadside stands. Separate Residential Farm category exists for certain canned goods for farm producers. State dept cottage food URL returned 404 at verification; current info at portal.ct.gov/cottagefood. If sales exceed \$50,000, a food manufacturing establishment license is required.

Connecticut Cottage Food Operation Law (PA 18-141)

CITATION

Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a

ENACTED

2018

LAST AMENDED

2022

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

Allowed foods

Allowed foods include non-perishable baked goods, candies, jams and jellies (not fruit butters), dried goods, pasta, spices, and other non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods from the official approved foods list. Products must be sold directly to consumers at events, farmers markets, roadside stands, at-home sales, or online (local delivery only).

Prohibited foods

Prohibited foods include all perishable baked goods, acidified foods, low-acid canned goods, pickles, salsas, sauces, ketchup, juices, carbonated drinks, kombucha, and meat jerkies. Sales are also prohibited at long-term care facilities, group homes, day care facilities, and schools.

Labeling requirements

Labels must use the physical home address (not a P.O. box), include all standard label information, and be on large items (e.g., wedding cakes) when delivering with the invoice. License must be displayed at all points of sale.

Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

Statute excerpt — verbatim

Sec. 21a-62a-1. Definitions. (2) "Cottage food operation" means a person who produces cottage food products only in the home kitchen of that person's private residential dwelling and only for sale directly to the consumer, but does not operate as a food service establishment pursuant to 19a-36 or regulations promulgated pursuant to 21a-101, or a food retailer, distributor or manufacturer as defined in 21a-92(b) and 21a-151. (3) "Cottage food products" means non-potentially hazardous baked goods, jams, jellies, and other non-potentially hazardous foods produced by a cottage food operation. (5) "Private residential dwelling" means an owner or resident occupied dwelling. A private residential dwelling does not include any group or communal residential setting within any type of structure, or outbuilding, shed, barn, or other similar structure. Sec. 21a-62a-2. Prerequisite Requirements. (a) All cottage food operations must be licensed annually by the commissioner of Consumer Protection. The license application form will be developed by the commissioner. The license will specify the food products allowed to be produced by the cottage food operation. The annual license fee for cottage food operations shall be set by the commissioner of Consumer Protection; however, such fee shall not exceed \$100.00. (b) Prior to licensing, the commissioner shall, within existing resources, examine the premises of the cottage food operation to determine it to be in compliance with Sections 21a-62a-1 through to Section 21a-62a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Source: <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Search/getDocument?guid={50AF7258-0000-C5F0-8C16-E8B672186E56}>

Official sources

Statute https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

State dept page <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Extension service <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCP/food-and-standards/Cottage-Food-Operator-Information-Sheet>

Forrager.com <https://forrager.com/law/connecticut/>

State dept of agriculture / health: **Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection**

County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 8 Connecticut counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9001 · —

Fairfield County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | true |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | false |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards |
| WATER SUPPLY | if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter |
| HANDWASHING | implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement |
| FOOD STORAGE | products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time |
|---------------------|---|

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 23 municipalities in Fairfield County (Bridgeport, Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, Danbury, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually. Operators must obtain written confirmation of local zoning compliance and keep it on file for DCP. Some Fairfield County municipalities have added 'Cottage Food Operator' as a listed Customary Home Occupation requiring a Home Occupation permit from the local Zoning Enforcement Officer. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality within Fairfield County; no county-level business license exists |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules |

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. All zoning, permits, and business licensing are administered at the municipal (town/city) level. Each of the 23 municipalities in Fairfield County has its own zoning code. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as a prerequisite for the state cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee (max \$100 per statute). Home inspection required before first license. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Private well requires annual water testing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9003 · —

Hartford County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | true |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | false |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards |
| WATER SUPPLY | if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter |
| HANDWASHING | implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement |
| FOOD STORAGE | products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 29 municipalities in Hartford County (Hartford, West Hartford, Manchester, Enfield, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually. Operators must obtain written confirmation of local zoning compliance and keep it on file for DCP. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality within Hartford County; no county-level business license exists |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules |

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. All zoning, permits, and business licensing are administered at the municipal (town/city) level. Each of the 29 municipalities in Hartford County has its own zoning code. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as a prerequisite for the state cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required before first license. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9005 · —

Litchfield County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | false |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards |
| WATER SUPPLY | if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter |
| HANDWASHING | implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement |
| FOOD STORAGE | products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 26 municipalities in Litchfield County (Torrington, Winsted, Litchfield, etc.). Rural and agricultural character; many residents use private wells. Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality within Litchfield County; no county-level business license exists |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules |

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Litchfield County is primarily rural/agricultural; many homes on private wells requiring annual water testing before cottage food license. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required before first license. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9007 · —

Middlesex County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 15 municipalities in Middlesex County (Middletown, Cromwell, Haddam, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality within Middlesex County; no county-level business license exists |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules |

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as prerequisite for cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9009 · —

New Haven County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | true |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | false |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards |
| WATER SUPPLY | if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter |
| HANDWASHING | implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement |
| FOOD STORAGE | products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 27 municipalities in New Haven County (New Haven, Waterbury, Meriden, Milford, etc.). Oxford, CT (in New Haven County) has published a cottage food manual confirming municipal zoning compliance is a prerequisite. Each municipality must be contacted individually. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality within New Haven County; no county-level business license exists |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Oxford CT (New Haven County) published a cottage food manual expressly stating that written local zoning compliance confirmation is a prerequisite for applying to CT DCP. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.oxford-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/332/cottage_food_manual

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9011 · —

New London County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 21 municipalities in New London County (New London, Norwich, Groton, Waterford, etc.). Note: Waterford, CT (in New London County) was specifically identified as having amended its zoning regulations in 2024 to add 'Cottage Food Operator' as a listed Customary Home Occupation, requiring a local Home Occupation permit from the Zoning Enforcement Officer before applying to CT DCP. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality; Waterford requires Home Occupation permit from ZEO; no county-level business license |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules |

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; Waterford Zoning Regs §3.11 and PL-24-11 (2024 amendment)

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Notable: Waterford CT (in New London County) added Cottage Food Operator as an explicitly listed Customary Home Occupation via zoning amendment PL-24-11 (public hearing Aug 2024), requiring a local Home Occupation permit. This illustrates that CT municipalities vary widely in how they classify cottage food home occupations. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

<https://www.waterfordct.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/951?fileID=38890>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9013 · —

Tolland County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | true |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | false |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards |
| WATER SUPPLY | if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter |
| HANDWASHING | implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement |
| FOOD STORAGE | products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 15 municipalities in Tolland County (Vernon, Tolland, Mansfield, Ellington, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality within Tolland County; no county-level business license exists |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules |

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as prerequisite for cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 9015 · —

Windham County

Population 0 · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | true |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | false |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| PET RESTRICTIONS | no state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards |
| WATER SUPPLY | if using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter |
| HANDWASHING | implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement |
| FOOD STORAGE | products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 17 municipalities in Windham County (Windham/Willimantic, Putnam, Killingly, etc.). Rural 'Quiet Corner' of CT; many homes on private wells requiring annual water testing. Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | varies by municipality within Windham County; no county-level business license exists |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | true |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | no more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules |

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Windham County ('Quiet Corner') is rural with many private wells; annual water testing is particularly relevant here. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Generated 2026-05-06 from data/research/state_cottage_food_statutes.csv and data/research/county_cottage_food_zoning.csv. This report is for research purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Cottage food law is in active flux — re-verify all citations and rules against state and county .gov sources before relying on them for regulatory decisions.