

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bristol County

Massachusetts · Taunton · FIPS 25005 · Population 576,699
· Crosodo Index #2599*

STATE BASELINE

105 CMR 590.009(D)

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Bristol County, Massachusetts — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Massachusetts cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Massachusetts home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Massachusetts label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MASSACHUSETTS: BRISTOL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2599* · FIPS 25005 · Taunton

Bristol County

Population 576,699 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Residential kitchen permit required from local board of health. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. Production limited to residential kitchen. Permit is specific to the local board of health jurisdiction.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Massachusetts has no unified county government for Bristol County. Each municipality (Taunton, Fall River, New Bedford, Attleboro, etc.) has its own local board of health that issues residential kitchen permits and its own zoning bylaws. Home occupation permit requirements vary by municipality. Massachusetts cottage food operates via local permitting not state registration.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Inspection required before permit issued by local board of health. Ongoing inspections possible.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Residential kitchen permit required from local board of health. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. Production limited to residential kitchen. Permit is specific to the local board of health jurisdiction.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal or private supply; inspected as part of home kitchen inspection
HANDWASHING	Required per kitchen inspection standards
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Inspection required before permit issued by local board of health. Ongoing inspections possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Massachusetts has no unified county government for Bristol County. Each municipality (Taunton, Fall River, New Bedford, Attleboro, etc.) has its own local board of health that issues residential kitchen permits and its own zoning bylaws. Home occupation permit requirements vary by municipality. Massachusetts cottage food operates via local permitting not state registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales directly to consumers, at farmers markets (with additional permit from local board of health), online sales within and outside Massachusetts. No annual sales cap. Retail sales to stores permitted in some cases.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level

Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts State Sanitary Code). Each municipality has its own home occupation zoning bylaws.

RESEARCH NOTES

Massachusetts (Okay tier) requires a residential kitchen permit from the local board of health per 105 CMR 590.009(D). Bristol County has no county government; permitting is entirely at municipal level. No annual sales cap. No state-level preemption of local zoning. Each of Bristol County's 20 municipalities has its own board of health and zoning bylaws. Confidence medium: state law framework confirmed; specific Bristol County municipality requirements not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bristolcounty.gov>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/massachusetts/>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/bristol-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bristol County	Plymouth County	Norfolk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation	No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales directly to consumers, at farmers markets (with additional permit from local board of health), online sales within and outside Massac...	Sales directly to consumers, farmers markets (additional permit from local board of health), online sales within and outside Massachusetts....	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Residential kitchen permit required from local board of health. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. P...	Residential kitchen permit required from local board of health. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. P...	Each of Norfolk County's 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit
POPULATION	576,699	529,548	722,112

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Bristol County's rules sit on top of Massachusetts's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

105 CMR 590.009(D)

ANNUAL SALES CAP

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Recommended

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Yes

DIRECT SALES ONLY

No

INDIRECT SALES

Yes — Massachusetts residential kitchens are treated as food establishments, so permitted operators may sell at any venue within the state including restaurants and retail stores, without the wholesale restriction that most cottage food laws impose. Mail order and catering are prohibited. Local boards of health administer permits and may impose additional restrictions.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Massachusetts cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/massachusetts.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-59000-state-sanitary-code-chapter-x>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>

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

Questions about Bristol County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/bristol-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Bristol County, Massachusetts. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/bristol-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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