

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Essex County

Massachusetts · Salem · FIPS 25009 · Population 806,103 ·
Crosodo Index #2699*

STATE BASELINE

105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit)

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

Essex 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

Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements

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: ESSEX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2699* · FIPS 25009 · Salem

Essex County

Population 806,103 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit)

· MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Each of Essex County's 34 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No statewide sales cap. Food safety training recommended; some local Boards require it.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Each municipality in Essex County (Salem, Lynn, Peabody, Haverhill, Lawrence, Gloucester, Newburyport, etc.) has its own Board of Health and may have separate home occupation/zoning rules. Contact the specific city/town Board of Health. No county-level government with permit authority in Massachusetts.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required for permit. Subsequent inspections at Board of Health discretion.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Each of Essex County's 34 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No statewide sales cap. Food safety training recommended; some local Boards require it.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; well users may face additional testing
HANDWASHING	Required as part of kitchen inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required for permit. Subsequent inspections at Board of Health discretion.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Each municipality in Essex County (Salem, Lynn, Peabody, Haverhill, Lawrence, Gloucester, Newburyport, etc.) has its own Board of Health and may have separate home occupation/zoning rules. Contact the specific city/town Board of Health. No county-level government with permit authority in Massachusetts.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales allowed from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited. Wholesale may not be conducted under residential kitchen permit.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D); local Board of Health regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

Essex County MA has no county-level government. Each of 34 municipalities administers its own residential kitchen permit program. Notable cities include Salem (historic, tourist-heavy), Lawrence, Lynn, and Haverhill. The county_seat field in input is blank — Salem is typically considered the shire town. Confidence medium: no specific county government URL and municipality-level rules not individually verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.essexcounty.gov>

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Essex County	Suffolk County	Middlesex County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements	Pets excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales allowed from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited. Wholesale may not be condu...	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen...	Retail residential kitchen: direct to consumer sales only; mail order prohibited. Wholesale residential kitchen: may sell to retailers/rest...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Each of Essex County's 34 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No st...	Suffolk County includes the City of Boston and three other cities (Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop). Each administers its own Board of Health. Bo...	Massachusetts has no county-level government with food safety authority — Middlesex County does not have an operational county government (...)
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	State baseline applies
POPULATION	806,103	785,443	1,623,109

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Essex 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

—

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 Essex 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/essex-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 Essex 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/essex-county-discuss

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