

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Suffolk County

Massachusetts · Boston · FIPS 25025 · Population 785,443 ·
Crosodo Index #2724*

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

Suffolk 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 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: SUFFOLK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2724* · FIPS 25025 · Boston

Suffolk County

Population 785,443 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit)

· MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Suffolk County includes the City of Boston and three other cities (Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop). Each administers its own Board of Health. Boston previously did not allow residential kitchens but has since created ordinances permitting them. Kitchen inspection required before permit issuance.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (City of Boston: Inspectional Services Department (617-635-5300) handles residential kitchen permits. Boston also has Home Occupation provisions in its Zoning Code (Article 2 definitions, Article 6 residential use). Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop have separate Board of Health processes. County_govt_url in input is boston.gov (Boston is the dominant entity).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required. Boston Inspectional Services Department administers food establishment permits.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Suffolk County includes the City of Boston and three other cities (Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop). Each administers its own Board of Health. Boston previously did not allow residential kitchens but has since created ordinances permitting them. Kitchen inspection required before permit issuance.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; municipal supply standard in Boston
HANDWASHING	Required as part of kitchen inspection compliance
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required. Boston Inspectional Services Department administers food establishment permits.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — City of Boston: Inspectional Services Department (617-635-5300) handles residential kitchen permits. Boston also has Home Occupation provisions in its Zoning Code (Article 2 definitions, Article 6 residential use). Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop have separate Board of Health processes. County_govt_url in input is boston.gov (Boston is the dominant entity).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen permit.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D); City of Boston Zoning Code and ISD regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

Suffolk County is dominated by the City of Boston. Massachusetts residential kitchen model requires initial kitchen inspection. Boston previously did not allow residential kitchens but changed that policy. Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop are separate cities within the county. No county-level government with permit authority in Massachusetts.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>

<https://www.boston.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/suffolk-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Suffolk County	Essex County	Norfolk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements	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 from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen...	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.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Suffolk County includes the City of Boston and three other cities (Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop). Each administers its own Board of Health. Bo...	Each of Essex County's 34 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No st...	Each of Norfolk County's 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit
POPULATION	785,443	806,103	722,112

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Suffolk 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 Suffolk 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/suffolk-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 Suffolk 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/suffolk-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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