

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Worcester County

Massachusetts · Worcester · FIPS 25027 · Population
858,898 · Crosodo Index #2712*

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

Worcester 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

Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required

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: WORCESTER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2712* · FIPS 25027 · Worcester

Worcester County

Population 858,898 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model — home kitchen treated as food establishment requiring a local Board of Health permit and kitchen inspection. Each of Worcester County's 60 towns/cities administers its own Board of Health. No statewide sales cap. Food handler certification recommended (not required by state but some local Boards require it).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Each of Worcester County's 60+ municipalities has its own Board of Health and may have separate home occupation/zoning requirements. City of Worcester Board of Health: 25 Meade St, Worcester MA. Contact specific town/city Board of Health for permit process. Massachusetts has no uniform home occupation permit requirement for cottage food at state level.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required before permit issuance. Subsequent inspections may occur at Board of Health discretion.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model — home kitchen treated as food establishment requiring a local Board of Health permit and kitchen inspection. Each of Worcester County's 60 towns/cities administers its own Board of Health. No statewide sales cap. Food handler certification recommended (not required by state but some local Boards require it).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; well/septic users may face additional testing requirements at Board of Health discretion
HANDWASHING	Required as part of kitchen inspection compliance
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit requirements

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required before permit issuance. Subsequent inspections may occur at Board of Health discretion.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Each of Worcester County's 60+ municipalities has its own Board of Health and may have separate home occupation/zoning requirements. City of Worcester Board of Health: 25 Meade St, Worcester MA. Contact specific town/city Board of Health for permit process. Massachusetts has no uniform home occupation permit requirement for cottage food at state level.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No statewide cap. Sales allowed from home, at events, farmers markets, and to retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen permit. Wholesale operations 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 vary by municipality

RESEARCH NOTES

Worcester County has no county-level government with land use authority in Massachusetts — each of the 60+ municipalities has its own Board of Health administering residential kitchen permits. Massachusetts is unique: it uses residential kitchen permits (treated as food establishments) rather than a standalone cottage food law. The state residential kitchen permit framework requires initial kitchen inspection, which sets it apart from most states.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.worcestercounty.org>

<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/worcester-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Worcester County	Norfolk County	Middlesex County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	No statewide cap. Sales allowed from home, at events, farmers markets, and to retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited und...	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited.	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	Varies	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model — home kitchen treated as food establishment requiring a local Board of Health permit and ki...	Each of Norfolk County's 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No ...	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 requirements	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	State baseline applies
POPULATION	858,898	722,112	1,623,109

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Worcester 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	ANNUAL SALES CAP
105 CMR 590.009(D)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Recommended
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	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 Worcester 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/worcester-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 Worcester 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/worcester-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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