

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bristol County

Rhode Island · Bristol · FIPS 44001 · Population 50,658 ·
Crosodo Index #2813*

STATE BASELINE

R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2

STATE TIER

Poor

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

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, Rhode Island — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Rhode Island 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
- ☐ Rhode Island home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Rhode Island label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

RHODE ISLAND: BRISTOL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2813* · FIPS 44001 · Bristol

Bristol County

Population 50,658 · State baseline: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Rhode Island allows only non-refrigerated baked goods (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require refrigeration). Annual sales cap \$50,000. Must register with RI DOH (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Kitchen inspection required before registration. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Bristol County consists of three towns (Bristol, Barrington, Warren) each with their own town councils and zoning. Rhode Island cottage food operations require registration with state DOH including local zoning board confirmation that residential use is permitted. Recommend verifying with the relevant town planning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required before registration issued. DOH may inspect at any time for compliance.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Rhode Island allows only non-refrigerated baked goods (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require refrigeration). Annual sales cap \$50,000. Must register with RI DOH (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Kitchen inspection required before registration. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.

WATER SUPPLY

Proof of water potability required (private well test or utility bill).

HANDWASHING

Required as part of kitchen inspection compliance.

FOOD STORAGE

Products must not require refrigeration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required before registration issued. DOH may inspect at any time for compliance.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Bristol County consists of three towns (Bristol, Barrington, Warren) each with their own town councils and zoning. Rhode Island cottage food operations require registration with state DOH including local zoning board confirmation that residential use is permitted. Recommend verifying with the relevant town planning office.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, consignment, or sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycare facilities, or schools.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2; N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 (reference for comparison); Bristol County town zoning codes

RESEARCH NOTES

Rhode Island is among the most restrictive cottage food states, allowing only non-refrigerated baked goods (no other food categories). Registration fee \$65. Kitchen inspection required. Annual cap \$50,000. Bristol County is RI's smallest county by area, containing three coastal towns. Note: RI does not have county governments with regulatory authority; the three towns in Bristol County govern their own zoning.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.bristolcounty.gov>

<https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=257>

<http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE21/21-27/21-27-6.1.htm>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bristol County	Newport County	Kent County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.	Kitchen inspection will evaluate conditions; no specific statutory statement on pets.	DOH inspection applies; pets likely required away from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, consignment, or sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facil...	Direct sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, no grocery store/restaurant sales, no sales to long-term care facilities, group homes,...	Direct sales only within Rhode Island. Products may not be sold outside the state.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Rhode Island allows only non-refrigerated baked goods (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do...	Rhode Island has one of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods are allowed (double crust pies,...	Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must not require refrigeration.	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond what is evaluated in inspection.	Non-refrigerated shelf-stable baked goods stored properly.
POPULATION	50,658	85,442	170,168

State context — Rhode Island cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2	50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — No wholesale or consignment sales permitted. Sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycare facilities, and schools are prohibited. Internet/mail/phone sales are permissible but the operator or designee must personally deliver within the state. Farmers market and temporary event sales require an additional retail food peddler license.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE21/21-27/21-27-6.1.htm>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=257>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/rhode-island/>

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/rhode-island/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, Rhode Island. 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/rhode-island/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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