

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Providence County

Rhode Island · Providence · FIPS 44007 · Population 657,984  
· Crosodo Index #2579\*

## 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

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

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

**50000**

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Conditional**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**Yes**

PETS

**Pets must be kept out of food preparation and storage areas during production**

### 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: PROVIDENCE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2579\* · FIPS 44007 · Providence

## Providence County

Population 657,984 · State baseline: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kitchen must meet housing code standards; must have adequate sinks, nonabsorbent surfaces, drainage, pest controls, and separation from bathrooms/laundry. Private well water requires annual coliform/E. coli/nitrate testing. Pets must be excluded from food prep/storage areas. Commercial kitchen may be used as alternative.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be kept out of food preparation and storage areas during production

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State law does not preempt local ordinances. Producers should check with their city/town planning or zoning office. Some municipalities in Providence County may require a home occupation permit or zoning approval. HOA/lease restrictions may also apply.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (RIDOH may inspect home kitchens at any time to ensure compliance; inspection authority is ongoing not just upon complaint)

## Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Kitchen must meet housing code standards; must have adequate sinks, nonabsorbent surfaces, drainage, pest controls, and separation from bathrooms/laundry. Private well water requires annual coliform/E. coli/nitrate testing. Pets must be excluded from food prep/storage areas. Commercial kitchen may be used as alternative. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Pets must be kept out of food preparation and storage areas during production                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Municipal or private well; private well requires annual testing for total coliform, E. coli, and nitrates before registration                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| HANDWASHING                | Adequate handwashing facilities required per RI Food Code kitchen standards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Products must be stored in the primary residence following safe food handling guidelines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Inspection &amp; permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Yes — RIDOH may inspect home kitchens at any time to ensure compliance; inspection authority is ongoing not just upon complaint                                                                                                                                            |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — State law does not preempt local ordinances. Producers should check with their city/town planning or zoning office. Some municipalities in Providence County may require a home occupation permit or zoning approval. HOA/lease restrictions may also apply. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales within Rhode Island only. Pickup at residence and delivery by registrant or designee are allowed. Online and mail order permitted within state. Selling at farmers markets and temporary events requires a separate Retail Food Peddler License (\$65/yr, covers all events statewide). |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state cottage food law; residence-based operation by registrant                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Relevant county code**

No county-level code found; Providence County is largely governed by constituent municipalities. State law at R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Rhode Island enacted H. 7123 in June 2022 creating its first non-farmer cottage food program (R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2). Registration with RIDOH required (\$65 fee); food handler training or food safety certification required; notarized affidavit required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; direct sales only within RI. RIDOH has ongoing inspection authority. State law does NOT preempt local ordinances, so Providence County municipalities may impose additional home occupation requirements. Providence County has no county government per se — it is administered through its 39 municipalities. Confidence medium because no specific municipality-level zoning code was retrieved for unincorporated areas (Rhode Island has no true unincorporated county areas).

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.providenceri.gov>

<https://health.ri.gov/food-safety/cottage-foods>

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

<https://web.uri.edu/risbdc/wp-content/uploads/sites/987/Cottage-Foods-101.pdf>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/providence-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/providence-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Providence County                                                                                                                                     | Kent County                                                                                                                                    | Bristol County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                                   | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                    | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | <b>Pets must be kept out of food preparation and storage areas during production</b>                                                                  | DOH inspection applies; pets likely required away from food prep areas.                                                                        | Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.                                                                      |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                                   | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                                   | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                           | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | <b>Direct sales within Rhode Island only. Pickup at residence and delivery by registrant or designee are allowed. Online and mail order permit...</b> | Direct sales only within Rhode Island. Products may not be sold outside the state.                                                             | Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, consignment, or sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facil... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                           | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                                | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | <b>Kitchen must meet housing code standards; must have adequate sinks, nonabsorbent surfaces, drainage, pest controls, and separation from bat...</b> | Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require... | Rhode Island allows only non-refrigerated baked goods (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | <b>Products must be stored in the primary residence following safe food handling guidelines</b>                                                       | Non-refrigerated shelf-stable baked goods stored properly.                                                                                     | Products must not require refrigeration.                                                                                                       |
| POPULATION                 | 657,984                                                                                                                                               | 170,168                                                                                                                                        | 50,658                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Rhode Island cottage food law

Providence 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](https://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 Providence 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/providence-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/providence-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Providence County, Rhode Island. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://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/providence-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/providence-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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