

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Washington County

Rhode Island · — · FIPS 44009 · Population 129,998 ·  
Crosodo Index #2794\*

## 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

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

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

### STATE SALES CAP

**50000**

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

### INSPECTION

**Yes**

### PETS

**Not specified; kitchen sanitation required.**

### 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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2794\* · FIPS 44009 · —

## Washington County

Population 129,998 · State baseline: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 · MEDIUM

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (One of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that don't require refrigeration). Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Registration required (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Home kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only.)

## SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

## PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; kitchen sanitation required.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Washington County (RI) municipalities (South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances and home occupation rules. RI counties do not have county-level governments; all governance is through the state and municipalities. No specific state-level preemption of local zoning for cottage food.)

## ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

## INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

## Home kitchen rules

## HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — One of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that don't require refrigeration). Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Registration required (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Home kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only.

## SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

## PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified; kitchen sanitation required.

## WATER SUPPLY

Potable water required; private well users face additional testing requirements.

## HANDWASHING

Required; inspected during home kitchen inspection.

## FOOD STORAGE

Only non-refrigerated baked goods. Stored in food-safe containers.

## Inspection &amp; permitting

## INSPECTION REQUIRED

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

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Washington County (RI) municipalities (South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances and home occupation rules. RI counties do not have county-level governments; all governance is through the state and municipalities. No specific state-level preemption of local zoning for cottage food.

## LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales only. No wholesale/consignment. No sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycares, or schools. Products may not be sold outside Rhode Island. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified.                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Relevant county code**

R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2. Note: Washington County RI (also called South County) has no county government; all governance is municipal.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

State baseline (RI) confirmed: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2, \$65 registration, \$50,000 cap, baked goods only, kitchen inspection required. Washington County RI (often called South County) has no actual county government — all zoning and permits are handled at the municipal level (South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly, etc.). Confidence medium — applying state baseline; no county-level governance to research.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.washingtoncounty.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/washington-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/washington-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Washington County                                                                                                                              | Kent County                                                                                                                                    | Newport County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Not specified; kitchen sanitation required.                                                                                                    | DOH inspection applies; pets likely required away from food prep areas.                                                                        | Kitchen inspection will evaluate conditions; no specific statutory statement on pets.                                                          |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct sales only. No wholesale/consignment. No sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycares, or ... | Direct sales only within Rhode Island. Products may not be sold outside the state.                                                             | Direct sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, no grocery store/restaurant sales, no sales to long-term care facilities, group homes,... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | One of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscui... | Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require... | Rhode Island has one of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods are allowed (double crust pies,... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Only non-refrigerated baked goods. Stored in food-safe containers.                                                                             | Non-refrigerated shelf-stable baked goods stored properly.                                                                                     | No specific statutory storage requirements beyond what is evaluated in inspection.                                                             |
| POPULATION                 | 129,998                                                                                                                                        | 170,168                                                                                                                                        | 85,442                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — Rhode Island cottage food law

Washington 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 Washington 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/washington-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/washington-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 Washington 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/washington-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/washington-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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