

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Chittenden County

Vermont · Burlington · FIPS 50007 · Population 168,309 ·
Crosodo Index #2572*

STATE BASELINE

18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

30000

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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

Chittenden County, Vermont — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

30000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

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

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Vermont label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

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

VERMONT: CHITTENDEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2572* · FIPS 50007 · Burlington

Chittenden County

Population 168,309 · State baseline: 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption

· HIGH

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): gross annual receipts ≤\$30,000, production in home kitchen of private residential dwelling or personal property kitchen only. Non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, dry herbs, trail mix, granola, cereal, mixed nuts, flavored vinegar, popcorn, coffee beans, dry tea, and home-canned pickles/vegetables/fruits (NCHFP-approved recipes, pH ≤4.6) allowed. Annual attestation and food safety training required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Burlington requires a home occupation zoning permit (Administrative Approval or Conditional Use Approval via Development Review Board per Section 5.4.6 of Burlington Zoning Ordinance). Burlington is the county seat — city rules apply within Burlington. Chittenden County municipalities each have their own zoning bylaws for home-based businesses. Vermont DOH food licensing is separate from local zoning. Vermont Department of Health licenses and inspects food establishments; cottage food operators with ≤\$30,000 qualify for exemption.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Vermont DOH may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections for qualifying cottage food operators.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): gross annual receipts ≤\$30,000, production in home kitchen of private residential dwelling or personal property kitchen only. Non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, dry herbs, trail mix, granola, cereal, mixed nuts, flavored vinegar, popcorn, coffee beans, dry tea, and home-canned pickles/vegetables/fruits (NCHFP-approved recipes, pH ≤4.6) allowed. Annual attestation and food safety training required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing per food safety training.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-PHF foods stored appropriately.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Vermont DOH may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections for qualifying cottage food operators.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Burlington requires a home occupation zoning permit (Administrative Approval or Conditional Use Approval via Development Review Board per Section 5.4.6 of Burlington Zoning Ordinance). Burlington is the county seat — city rules apply within Burlington. Chittenden County municipalities each have their own zoning bylaws for home-based businesses. Vermont DOH food licensing is separate from local zoning. Vermont Department of Health licenses and inspects food establishments; cottage food operators with ≤\$30,000 qualify for exemption.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and similar venues. Cannot sell to restaurants or licensed food establishments under cottage food exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No state restriction specified for cottage food operators.

Relevant county code

18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025); Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance §5.4.6

RESEARCH NOTES

Vermont DOH page (healthvermont.gov) directly confirmed Act 42 (2025) raised cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts (from prior \$10,000 cap). Burlington city guide confirms home occupation zoning permit required from Department of Permitting & Inspections Zoning Division, with two levels (Administrative Approval or Conditional Use Approval).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chittendencountyvt.gov>

<https://healthvermont.gov/health-environment/food-lodging/home-based-food-establishments>

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/food-safety-consumer-protection/cottage-foods>

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6327/Doing-Business-in-Burlington-Guide-PDF?bidId=>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Chittenden County	Washington County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.	Not specified in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and similar venues. Cannot sell to restaurants or licensed food establishments under cottage food ...	Direct sales to consumers only. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments. Farmers markets, home pickup, events permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required for exempt operations. No sales to restaurants or lice...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): gross annual receipts ≤\$30,000, production in home kitchen of private residential dwelling ...	Vermont Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. An...	Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): non-potentially hazardous foods including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, dry herbs, tra...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-PHF foods stored appropriately.	Non-TCS, shelf-stable products required.	Products must be non-potentially hazardous.
POPULATION	168,309	59,768	50,101

State context — Vermont cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption	30000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Upon-complaint	Yes
INDIRECT SALES	
No — Food made under a license exemption cannot be sold to restaurants or other licensed food establishments. Sales must be direct to final consumers. Exempt producers must file an annual attestation with the Vermont Department of Health by January 15 each year and complete online food safety training.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Vermont cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/vermont.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/085/04351>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/food-lodging-program/home-based-food-licenses-and-exemptions>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/vermont/>

Questions about Chittenden 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/vermont/chittenden-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 Chittenden County, Vermont. 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/vermont/chittenden-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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