

## COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

# Can I sell from my kitchen in Essex County, Massachusetts?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-05.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

**Yes**

HOME OCCUPATION

**Varies by city**

BUSINESS LICENSE

**Varies**

SALES CAP

**—**

MASSACHUSETTS RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[Massachusetts permits PDF](#)

[Massachusetts cottage food law page](#)

[Massachusetts Department of Public Health cottage food program](#)

[Statute: 105 CMR 590.009\(D\)](#)

**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Essex County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

## What you need

Essex County, Massachusetts. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

### STATE FOOD PERMIT

**Yes**

### ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

### HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

**Varies by city**

### LOCAL HEALTH

**Yes**

### BUSINESS LICENSE

**Varies**

### PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

**Yes**

### HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

### HOW THIS PLACE WORKS

**This is a city or town permit, not a county one.** Massachusetts abolished county government in most of the state. A residential kitchen permit is issued by the city or town Board of Health (for example Cambridge, Lowell, or Newton), not by the county. This packet still includes the state cottage-food pages. Call the Board of Health for the city or town on your address.

Official source: [Mass.gov residential kitchen permit](https://www.mass.gov/residential-kitchen-permit)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

**Massachusetts permits PDF →**

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/massachusetts.pdf>

**Massachusetts cottage food law page →**

<https://crosodo.com/states/massachusetts>

**Permit page for this place →**

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/massachusetts/essex-county>

**Essex County cottage food law page →**

<https://crosodo.com/states/massachusetts/essex-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

## Where to file

### State

Massachusetts registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: 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.

Massachusetts permits PDF: [crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/massachusetts.pdf](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/massachusetts.pdf)

State law page: [crosodo.com/states/massachusetts](https://crosodo.com/states/massachusetts)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>

Statute: [105 CMR 590.009\(D\)](#)

### Zoning / home occupation

Varies by city. Each municipality in Essex County (Salem, Lynn, Peabody, Haverhill, Lawrence, Gloucester, Newburyport, etc.) has its own Board of Health and may have separate home occupation/zoning rules. Contact the specific city/town Board of Health. No county-level government with permit authority in Massachusetts.

### Health

Yes. Initial kitchen inspection required for permit. Subsequent inspections at Board of Health discretion.

### Business license

Varies

### Pickup / delivery

Sales allowed from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited. Wholesale may not be conducted under residential kitchen permit.

### If you rent a commissary kitchen

**A residential kitchen permit is not a food-establishment commissary.** Massachusetts residential kitchens are treated as food establishments by the city or town Board of Health. A rented commissary is a different food establishment at that board, not a home kitchen.

Official source: [Mass.gov retail food](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.essexcounty.gov>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

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### SOURCES

<https://www.essexcounty.gov>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>

## Essex County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Essex County                                                                                                                                   | Suffolk County                                                                                                                                 | Middlesex County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements                                                           | Pets excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements                                                                     | State baseline applies                                                                                                                          |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Sales allowed from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited. Wholesale may not be condu... | Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen... | 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                                                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Varies by city                                                                                                                                  |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Each of Essex County's 34 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No st... | Suffolk County includes the City of Boston and three other cities (Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop). Each administers its own Board of Health. Bo... | 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                                                                                           | Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit                                                                                           | State baseline applies                                                                                                                          |
| POPULATION                 | 806,103                                                                                                                                        | 785,443                                                                                                                                        | 1,623,109                                                                                                                                       |

## More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

Massachusetts permits PDF: [crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/massachusetts.pdf](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/massachusetts.pdf)

Massachusetts cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/massachusetts](https://crosodo.com/states/massachusetts)

Essex County cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/massachusetts/essex-county](https://crosodo.com/states/massachusetts/essex-county)