

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Suffolk 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

Yes

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 Suffolk County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Suffolk 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

Yes

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/info-details/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/suffolk-county>

Suffolk County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/massachusetts/suffolk-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

State law page: 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. City of Boston: Inspectional Services Department (617-635-5300) handles residential kitchen permits. Boston also has Home Occupation provisions in its Zoning Code (Article 2 definitions, Article 6 residential use). Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop have separate Board of Health processes. County_govt_url in input is boston.gov (Boston is the dominant entity).

Planning: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>

Health

Yes. Initial kitchen inspection required. Boston Inspectional Services Department administers food establishment permits.

Health: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>

Business license

Yes

Pickup / delivery

Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited 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.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>

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.

SOURCES

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services>

<https://www.boston.gov>

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

Suffolk County and nearby places

Regulation	Suffolk County	Essex County	Norfolk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen...	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.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Suffolk County includes the City of Boston and three other cities (Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop). Each administers its own Board of Health. Bo...	Each of Essex County's 34 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No st...	Each of Norfolk County's 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit
POPULATION	785,443	806,103	722,112

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

Massachusetts cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/massachusetts

Suffolk County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/massachusetts/suffolk-county