

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Connecticut

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a.

STATUTE	TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED
Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a	Okay	D	8

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.

OFFICIAL STATE HANDOUT

Cottage Food in Connecticut — A Guide for Cottage Food Operators

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection · Cottage Food Manual · Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) · https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCP/News-Releases-from-the-Department-of-Consumer-Protection/COTTAGE_FOOD_MANUAL.pdf

Cottage food is food that is made in your home for direct sale to consumers. Public Act 18-141 sets limits on what you may sell in the State of Connecticut. Cottage food operators in Connecticut may apply for a cottage food license and sell once their license is approved. Cottage food must be held to the highest safety standards, and production and sales practices must follow laws and regulations outlined by the State of Connecticut and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

License Requirements

What do I have to do before I may obtain a cottage food license?

- Obtain, and keep written confirmation, that your space is compliant with local zoning laws.
- If you have a private water supply, the water supply must be tested prior to receiving a license to demonstrate that the water supply is safe to drink. Subsequent testing may be required.
- Complete a food safety training program that includes training in food processing and packaging. A list of acceptable courses can be found at www.portal.ct.gov/cottagefood.
- Apply for a license through DCP, and pay the application fee of \$50.00.
- When you apply for your license, you must be prepared to tell DCP what type of food you will be producing.

Types of Food

What types of cottage food may I produce in my home?

- Some examples of potentially acceptable cottage food are: loaf breads, rolls and biscuits; non-potentially hazardous cakes including celebration cakes (e.g. birthday cake, but not cheesecake); non-potentially hazardous pastries and cookies; candies and confections; fruit pies (not pumpkin); jams, jellies and preserves (must meet the Standard of Identity in 21CFR150); dried fruits; dry herbs, seasonings and mixtures; non-potentially hazardous cereals, trail mixes and granola; coated or uncoated nuts; vinegar and flavored vinegars; popcorn and popcorn balls; cotton candy.
- PLEASE NOTE: This list is not inclusive. Products on this list are not automatically approved, and the list above is subject to change.

Why are some products not allowed to be made and sold?

- The allowable products list is based on the food safety risk level associated with certain types of food. People who operate a licensed and inspected food processing business have to meet more rigorous requirements for training, food safety and handling, which is why they may make and sell a broader range of food.

May I produce and sell cooked vegetable products, like salsas or tomato sauces?

- No. Cooked vegetables, whether fresh or canned, usually are made from a combination of low acid and acidified food, and are considered a potentially hazardous food. Cooked vegetables must be kept either hot (above 135°F) or cold (below 41°F). They cannot be stored safely at room temperature.

May I roast coffee beans in my home kitchen and sell them?

- Yes. You may roast and sell whole bean coffee or ground coffee. However, beverages may not be sold, so you may not sell ready-made coffee.

May I make and sell apple butter, pumpkin butter or other fruit butters?

- No. Fruit butters have significantly less sugar than a traditional jam or jelly. It is the combination of acid, sugar, pectin and heat that assures the safety of jams or jellies. In fruit butters, the combination of sugar and pectin is not sufficient to assure that the fruit butter is safe.

May I press and sell apple cider?

- No. Beverages, including apple cider, are not allowed to be produced and sold.

May I make and sell dehydrated meat or poultry?

- No. Meat and poultry are a potentially hazardous food and may not be produced and sold as cottage food.

Labeling

Do I have to put a label on my cottage food?

- Yes, you are required to label your cottage food. The basic information that must be on the label is as follows:
- Name and address of the cottage food operation.
- Name of the cottage food product.
- The ingredients in the cottage food product in descending order of predominance by weight. If you use a prepared item in your recipe, you must list the sub ingredients as well.
- The net weight or net volume of the cottage food product (must also include the metric equivalent).
- Allergen labeling as specified in federal labeling requirements.
- The following statement must be printed in at least ten-point type in a clear and conspicuous manner: "Made in a Cottage Food Operation that is not Subject to Routine Government Food Safety Inspection."

Do I have to include my home address on my product label or is a post office box sufficient?

- You must use the physical address of your home kitchen on your product label, not a post office box. Including an address on a product label enables authorities to locate a business in case of a recall or trace back associated with a foodborne illness complaint or outbreak.

Local Zoning & Location Requirements

Will I need to meet local zoning or other laws?

- Yes. Cottage food operators should contact their municipal government to determine if there are local regulations that will impact their business. You must keep a written record of zoning approval, and be able to produce it if requested by DCP.

May I make cottage food products in an outbuilding on my property, such as a shed or a barn?

- No. Cottage food products must be made in the licensed kitchen in your home and stored in the permitted area of your home.

May I make products in a rented commercial kitchen and sell them?

- No. A cottage food license is only for food produced in your home kitchen. If you rent time at a commercial kitchen, you will need a food establishment license to sell your products, even if the rented kitchen is a licensed facility.

Reproduced from the official Connecticut DCP Cottage Food Manual. Verify current rules with DCP at www.portal.ct.gov/cottagefood.

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Executive summary

This report covers the Connecticut cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 8 Connecticut counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP 50000	REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes
FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION Yes (specific course)	KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes
DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes	INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE) No — Indirect sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; mail order and third-party delivery services are prohibited; only the producer or their designee may deliver within Connecticut.

RESEARCH NOTES

Connecticut's cottage food law (PA 18-141 / SB 193) went into effect October 1, 2018, after years of failed attempts. The 2022 amendment (SB 187) increased the annual sales limit from \$25,000 to \$50,000. License fee is \$50 (law caps at \$100), renewable annually by February 28. A home inspection is required before receiving the license; the DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time. Producers must take a ServSafe Food Handler course (\$15 online). Products must be from the approved foods list; requests to add new items can be submitted to DCP. Private well or septic users face additional testing requirements. The farmers-market-only restriction mentioned in the input notes is historical; current law allows sales at events, farmers markets, home, online (with local delivery only), and roadside stands. Separate Residential Farm category exists for certain canned goods for farm producers. State dept cottage food URL returned 404 at verification; current info at portal.ct.gov/cottagefood. If sales exceed \$50,000, a food manufacturing establishment license is required.

TOP QUESTIONS HOME BAKERS ASK ABOUT CONNECTICUT

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

Not specified in state data — check county

PETS ALLOWED?

Varies by county — see below

STATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED?

Yes

HEALTH DEPT INSPECTION?

Yes

SALES CAP

50000

ONLINE / SHIPPING ALLOWED?

No (Indirect sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; mail order and third-party delivery services are prohibited; only the producer or their designee may deliver within Connecticut.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Varies by county — see county details below

HOME KITCHEN BASELINE

Varies by county

County rules can add restrictions on top of the state baseline. Always verify with your local health department and planning office.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR BAKERS IN CONNECTICUT

- Connecticut (Okay tier) — annual sales cap: 50000.
- Home kitchen rules vary by county — use the county sections below for permits, inspections, and zoning overlays.
- Check whether your county requires a separate dedicated kitchen, home occupation permit, or local business license.
- Labeling and registration requirements are set by state law; confirm exact wording with Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection.
- Registration required: Yes.
- Direct vs indirect sales: No (Indirect sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are not permitted; mail order and third-party delivery services are prohibited; only the producer or their designee may deliver within Connecticut.).

PORCH / ON-SITE SALES

These are frequently more restricted by local zoning than by cottage food law. Check the county-level "On-site / porch pickup" answers and confirm with county planning.

RECOMMENDED FIRST STEPS

1. Confirm your county rules using the county sections below or the standalone county PDF.
2. Check if you need any local business license or home occupation permit (most don't).
3. Prepare labels with the required home-kitchen disclosure (wording varies by state/county).
4. Register with the state if your projected sales or product type requires it (check the registration field).
5. Start with direct sales at farmers markets or on-site — often the easiest path in Connecticut.

Connecticut Cottage Food Operation Law (PA 18-141)

CITATION

Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a

ENACTED

2018

LAST AMENDED

2022

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

Allowed foods

Allowed foods include non-perishable baked goods, candies, jams and jellies (not fruit butters), dried goods, pasta, spices, and other non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable foods from the official approved foods list. Products must be sold directly to consumers at events, farmers markets, roadside stands, at-home sales, or online (local delivery only).

Prohibited foods

Prohibited foods include all perishable baked goods, acidified foods, low-acid canned goods, pickles, salsas, sauces, ketchup, juices, carbonated drinks, kombucha, and meat jerkies. Sales are also prohibited at long-term care facilities, group homes, day care facilities, and schools.

Labeling requirements

Labels must use the physical home address (not a P.O. box), include all standard label information, and be on large items (e.g., wedding cakes) when delivering with the invoice. License must be displayed at all points of sale.

Statutory text – verbatim excerpt

STATUTE EXCERPT – VERBATIM

Sec. 21a-62a-1. Definitions. (2) "Cottage food operation" means a person who produces cottage food products only in the home kitchen of that person's private residential dwelling and only for sale directly to the consumer, but does not operate as a food service establishment pursuant to 19a-36 or regulations promulgated pursuant to 21a-101, or a food retailer, distributor or manufacturer as defined in 21a-92(b) and 21a-151. (3) "Cottage food products" means non-potentially hazardous baked goods, jams, jellies, and other non-potentially hazardous foods produced by a cottage food operation. (5) "Private residential dwelling" means an owner or resident occupied dwelling. A private residential dwelling does not include any group or communal residential setting within any type of structure, or outbuilding, shed, barn, or other similar structure. Sec. 21a-62a-2. Prerequisite Requirements. (a) All cottage food operations must be licensed annually by the commissioner of Consumer Protection. The license application form will be developed by the commissioner. The license will specify the food products allowed to be produced by the cottage food operation. The annual license fee for cottage food operations shall be set by the commissioner of Consumer Protection; however, such fee shall not exceed \$100.00. (b) Prior to licensing, the commissioner shall, within existing resources, examine the premises of the cottage food operation to determine it to be in compliance with Sections 21a-62a-1 through to Section 21a-62a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Source: <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Search/getDocument?guid={50AF7258-0000-C5F0-8C16-E8B672186E56}>

Official sources

Statute https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

State dept page <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Extension service <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCP/food-and-standards/Cottage-Food-Operator-Information-Sheet>

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

State dept of agriculture / health: **Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection**

County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 8 Connecticut counties below are listed alphabetically (Crosodo Index* shown for reference – see methodology at end of report). The Crosodo Index is our internal ranking of U.S. counties by how permissive the combined state + county rules are for home cottage food operations.

CONNECTICUT: FAIRFIELD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3137* · FIPS 09001 · —

Fairfield CountyPopulation — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 23 municipalities in Fairfield County (Bridgeport, Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, Danbury, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually. Operators must obtain written confirmation of local zoning compliance and keep it on file for DCP. Some Fairfield County municipalities have added 'Cottage Food Operator' as a listed Customary Home Occupation requiring a Home Occupation permit from the local Zoning Enforcement Officer.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** True**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN** False**PET RESTRICTIONS** No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards**WATER SUPPLY** If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter**HANDWASHING** Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement**FOOD STORAGE** Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage**Inspection & permitting****INSPECTION REQUIRED** Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 23 municipalities in Fairfield County (Bridgeport, Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, Danbury, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually. Operators must obtain written confirmation of local zoning compliance and keep it on file for DCP. Some Fairfield County municipalities have added 'Cottage Food Operator' as a listed Customary Home Occupation requiring a Home Occupation permit from the local Zoning Enforcement Officer.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Varies by municipality within Fairfield County; no county-level business license exists

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. All zoning, permits, and business licensing are administered at the municipal (town/city) level. Each of the 23 municipalities in Fairfield County has its own zoning code. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as a prerequisite for the state cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee (max \$100 per statute). Home inspection required before first license. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Private well requires annual water testing.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/fairfield-county-discuss>

CONNECTICUT: HARTFORD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3136* · FIPS 09003 · —

Hartford County

Population — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 29 municipalities in Hartford County (Hartford, West Hartford, Manchester, Enfield, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually. Operators must obtain written confirmation of local zoning compliance and keep it on file for DCP.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN False

PET RESTRICTIONS No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 29 municipalities in Hartford County (Hartford, West Hartford, Manchester, Enfield, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually. Operators must obtain written confirmation of local zoning compliance and keep it on file for DCP.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Varies by municipality within Hartford County; no county-level business license exists

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. All zoning, permits, and business licensing are administered at the municipal (town/city) level. Each of the 29 municipalities in Hartford County has its own zoning code. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as a prerequisite for the state cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required before first license. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/hartford-county-discuss>

CONNECTICUT: LITCHFIELD COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3143* · FIPS 09005 · —

Litchfield County

Population — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 26 municipalities in Litchfield County (Torrington, Winsted, Litchfield, etc.). Rural and agricultural character; many residents use private wells. Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY

If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING

Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 26 municipalities in Litchfield County (Torrington, Winsted, Litchfield, etc.). Rural and agricultural character; many residents use private wells. Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by municipality within Litchfield County; no county-level business license exists

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Litchfield County is primarily rural/agricultural; many homes on private wells requiring annual water testing before cottage food license. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required before first license. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/litchfield-county-discuss>

CONNECTICUT: MIDDLESEX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3138* · FIPS 09007 · —

Middlesex County

Population — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 15 municipalities in Middlesex County (Middletown, Cromwell, Haddam, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY

If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING

Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 15 municipalities in Middlesex County (Middletown, Cromwell, Haddam, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by municipality within Middlesex County; no county-level business license exists

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as prerequisite for cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/middlesex-county-discuss>

CONNECTICUT: NEW HAVEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3139* · FIPS 09009 · —

New Haven County

Population — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 27 municipalities in New Haven County (New Haven, Waterbury, Meriden, Milford, etc.). Oxford, CT (in New Haven County) has published a cottage food manual confirming municipal zoning compliance is a prerequisite. Each municipality must be contacted individually.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY

If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING

Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 27 municipalities in New Haven County (New Haven, Waterbury, Meriden, Milford, etc.). Oxford, CT (in New Haven County) has published a cottage food manual confirming municipal zoning compliance is a prerequisite. Each municipality must be contacted individually.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by municipality within New Haven County; no county-level business license exists

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Oxford CT (New Haven County) published a cottage food manual expressly stating that written local zoning compliance confirmation is a prerequisite for applying to CT DCP. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.oxford-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/332/cottage_food_manual

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/new-haven-county-discuss>

CONNECTICUT: NEW LONDON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3140* · FIPS 09011 · —

New London County

Population — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 21 municipalities in New London County (New London, Norwich, Groton, Waterford, etc.). Note: Waterford, CT (in New London County) was specifically identified as having amended its zoning regulations in 2024 to add 'Cottage Food Operator' as a listed Customary Home Occupation, requiring a local Home Occupation permit from the Zoning Enforcement Officer before applying to CT DCP.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY

If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING

Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 21 municipalities in New London County (New London, Norwich, Groton, Waterford, etc.). Note: Waterford, CT (in New London County) was specifically identified as having amended its zoning regulations in 2024 to add 'Cottage Food Operator' as a listed Customary Home Occupation, requiring a local Home Occupation permit from the Zoning Enforcement Officer before applying to CT DCP.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by municipality; Waterford requires Home Occupation permit from ZEO; no county-level business license

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; Waterford Zoning Regs §3.11 and PL-24-11 (2024 amendment)

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Notable: Waterford CT (in New London County) added Cottage Food Operator as an explicitly listed Customary Home Occupation via zoning amendment PL-24-11 (public hearing Aug 2024), requiring a local Home Occupation permit. This illustrates that CT municipalities vary widely in how they classify cottage food home occupations. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

<https://www.waterfordct.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/951?fileID=38890>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/new-london-county-discuss>

CONNECTICUT: TOLLAND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3141* · FIPS 09013 · —

Tolland County

Population — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 15 municipalities in Tolland County (Vernon, Tolland, Mansfield, Ellington, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN False

PET RESTRICTIONS No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 15 municipalities in Tolland County (Vernon, Tolland, Mansfield, Ellington, etc.). Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE Varies by municipality within Tolland County; no county-level business license exists

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval as prerequisite for cottage food license. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/tolland-county-discuss>

CONNECTICUT: WINDHAM COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #3142* · FIPS 09015 · —

Windham County

Population — · State baseline: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a; CT tier: Okay · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

True

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

False

PETS ALLOWED?

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) (Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 17 municipalities in Windham County (Windham/Willimantic, Putnam, Killingly, etc.). Rural 'Quiet Corner' of CT; many homes on private wells requiring annual water testing. Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

True

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) (Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

True

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

False

PET RESTRICTIONS

No state-level rule; individual municipality may have standards

WATER SUPPLY

If using private well: annual coliform/nitrate testing required and results submitted to CT DCP prior to licensing and annually thereafter

HANDWASHING

Implied by ServSafe Food Handler training requirement

FOOD STORAGE

Products must be stored in permitted area of home that includes the kitchen; no outbuilding storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes (pre-licensure home inspection by CT DCP required) — Required before receiving annual cottage food license; DCP commissioner may also inspect at any time

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes (municipal zoning approval required before applying for CT DCP license) — Connecticut has NO county government — counties are geographic only. All zoning is administered by the 17 municipalities in Windham County (Windham/Willimantic, Putnam, Killingly, etc.). Rural 'Quiet Corner' of CT; many homes on private wells requiring annual water testing. Each municipality must be contacted individually for zoning compliance confirmation.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies by municipality within Windham County; no county-level business license exists

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	True
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Varies by municipal zoning; no exterior signs typically allowed under home occupation rules
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; local delivery only for online orders; no mail-order shipping; sales at farmers markets, events, roadside stands, or at home
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No more than 2 immediate household members per typical CT home occupation rules

Relevant county code

CT DCP cottage food program: Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-62a through §21a-62h; local municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

IMPORTANT: Connecticut counties have NO government. Windham County ('Quiet Corner') is rural with many private wells; annual water testing is particularly relevant here. CT DCP requires written municipal zoning approval. Annual \$50 license fee. Home inspection required. ServSafe Food Handler course required. \$50,000 annual sales cap.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

N/A — no county planning in Connecticut; contact individual municipality

N/A — Connecticut counties have no government

<https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/knowledge-base/articles/cottage-foods/local-zoning-and-location-requirements>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_417.htm#sec_21a-62a

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Food-and-Standards-Division/Cottage-Foods>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut/windham-county-discuss>

Crosodo Index methodology: The Crosodo Index is our internal 1–N ranking of U.S. counties by how friendly the combined state + county rules are for home-based cottage food bakers. Score components (higher = better): home kitchen allowed (30/15/5), no dedicated kitchen required (25), pets allowed (15), no home occupation permit (15), on-site pickup allowed (10), no inspection (10), no local business license (5), high data confidence (5), plus state tier bonus (Freedom +20, Great +15, Good +10, Okay +5). Data drawn from county zoning codes, health department rules, and state cottage food statutes (primarily the county_cottage_food_zoning research set and state statutes CSV, last verified ~2026). Ranks are global across ~3,000 counties. Counties with sparse or missing data receive lower/default scores. This is a research and prioritization tool only — always verify current rules directly with your state department of agriculture/health and your county planning & health offices. The original U.S. Census population rank is retained in source data for reference but is no longer used for primary display or sorting in Crosodo materials.

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Connecticut cottage food rules, county zoning overlays, and what other home bakers are seeing in your area.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/connecticut-discuss>