

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Barnstable County

Massachusetts · Barnstable · FIPS 25001 · Population
229,436 · Crosodo Index #2324*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
105 CMR 590.009(D)	Okay	—	MEDIUM	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.

MASSACHUSETTS: BARNSTABLE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2324* · FIPS 25001 · Barnstable

Barnstable County

Population 229,436 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Residential kitchen permit required from local Board of Health (each town administers separately). Annual kitchen inspection required before permit issued. Non-TCS foods only. Direct sales to end user only (no wholesale, no mail order, no out-of-state). Potable water testing required for private wells. Dedicated handwashing sink required or separate sink with protocol. Barnstable County has 15 distinct towns — each town’s Board of Health administers its own permit.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state regulation; kitchen must pass Board of Health inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Each Barnstable County town has its own Board of Health and zoning requirements. Residential kitchen permit (from town Board of Health) is required per 105 CMR 590.009(D). This is separate from any zoning home occupation permit. Some towns may require both. Local zoning varies by municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual kitchen inspection by local Board of Health required before permit issued; Board of Health may inspect at any time for compliance)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Residential kitchen permit required from local Board of Health (each town administers separately). Annual kitchen inspection required before permit issued. Non-TCS foods only. Direct sales to end user only (no wholesale, no mail order, no out-of-state). Potable water testing required for private wells. Dedicated handwashing sink required or separate sink with protocol. Barnstable County has 15 distinct towns — each town’s Board of Health administers its own permit.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Not specified in state regulation; kitchen must pass Board of Health inspection

WATER SUPPLY

Private well must be tested pre-permit and at least annually; public water supply bill as proof

HANDWASHING

Dedicated handwashing sink required or kitchen sink protocol; adequate handwashing required per state code

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS non-perishable foods only; baked goods, jams, jellies, dry goods, confections

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Annual kitchen inspection by local Board of Health required before permit issued; Board of Health may inspect at any time for compliance

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Conditional — Each Barnstable County town has its own Board of Health and zoning requirements. Residential kitchen permit (from town Board of Health) is required per 105 CMR 590.009(D). This is separate from any zoning home occupation permit. Some towns may require both. Local zoning varies by municipality.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct to end consumer only; no wholesale to stores/restaurants; no mail order; no out-of-state delivery (FDA does not recognize as approved source). Sales at farmers markets and events allowed with local Board of Health approval.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state regulation; local zoning may restrict

Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D)(2)-(3); individual town Board of Health regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

Barnstable County MA (Cape Cod) uses Massachusetts’ residential kitchen permit model under 105 CMR 590.009(D). Each of the 15 towns on Cape Cod has its own Board of Health administering permits — fees, specific requirements, and processing vary by town. Mass.gov Retail Food Code standards document confirmed requirements including water testing, handwashing sink, inspection. Annual permit fee typical around \$100-\$175. No Barnstable County-wide cottage food program — all county-level governed at town level. Confidence medium — state regulation confirmed but no Barnstable town-level .gov source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.barnstablecounty.org>

<https://www.mass.gov/guidance/retail-food-code-standards-for-permitted-residential-kitchens>

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

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

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

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

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
105 CMR 590.009(D)	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	Recommended
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
Yes	No
INDIRECT SALES	
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.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Massachusetts cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-59000-state-sanitary-code-chapter-x>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>

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

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Barnstable County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

**[https://crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/
barnstable-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/barnstable-county-discuss)**
