

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Bristol County

Massachusetts · Taunton · FIPS 25005 · Population 576,699  
· Crosodo Index #2599\*

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: BRISTOL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2599\* · FIPS 25005 · Taunton

# Bristol County

Population 576,699 · 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. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. Production limited to residential kitchen. Permit is specific to the local board of health jurisdiction.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies by city (Massachusetts has no unified county government for Bristol County. Each municipality (Taunton, Fall River, New Bedford, Attleboro, etc.) has its own local board of health that issues residential kitchen permits and its own zoning bylaws. Home occupation permit requirements vary by municipality. Massachusetts cottage food operates via local permitting not state registration.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Inspection required before permit issued by local board of health. Ongoing inspections possible.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Residential kitchen permit required from local board of health. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. Production limited to residential kitchen. Permit is specific to the local board of health jurisdiction.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Municipal or private supply; inspected as part of home kitchen inspection
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required per kitchen inspection standards
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Inspection required before permit issued by local board of health. Ongoing inspections possible.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies by city — Massachusetts has no unified county government for Bristol County. Each municipality (Taunton, Fall River, New Bedford, Attleboro, etc.) has its own local board of health that issues residential kitchen permits and its own zoning bylaws. Home occupation permit requirements vary by municipality. Massachusetts cottage food operates via local permitting not state registration.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales directly to consumers, at farmers markets (with additional permit from local board of health), online sales within and outside Massachusetts. No annual sales cap. Retail sales to stores permitted in some cases.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified at state level

### Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts State Sanitary Code). Each municipality has its own home occupation zoning bylaws.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Massachusetts (Okay tier) requires a residential kitchen permit from the local board of health per 105 CMR 590.009(D). Bristol County has no county government; permitting is entirely at municipal level. No annual sales cap. No state-level preemption of local zoning. Each of Bristol County’s 20 municipalities has its own board of health and zoning bylaws. Confidence medium: state law framework confirmed; specific Bristol County municipality requirements not retrieved.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>
- <https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/massachusetts/>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bristol County	Plymouth County	Norfolk County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation	No specific state cottage food pet restriction, but kitchen must pass health inspection for sanitation	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 directly to consumers, at farmers markets (with additional permit from local board of health), online sales within and outside Massac...	Sales directly to consumers, farmers markets (additional permit from local board of health), online sales within and outside Massachusetts...	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	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Residential kitchen permit required from local board of health. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. P...	Residential kitchen permit required from local board of health. Kitchen inspection required before operation. Only non-TCS foods allowed. P...	Each of Norfolk County's 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No ...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods	Standard home kitchen storage for approved non-TCS foods	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit
POPULATION	576,699	529,548	722,112

## State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Bristol 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.

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

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/bristol-county-discuss>

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