

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hampden County

Massachusetts · Springfield · FIPS 25013 · Population
464,575 · Crosodo Index #2871*

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: HAMPDEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2871* · FIPS 25013 · Springfield

Hampden County

Population 464,575 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Massachusetts requires a Retail Residential Kitchen permit issued by the local Board of Health under 105 CMR 590. The kitchen must be inspected before the permit is issued. Only non-potentially-hazardous (non-TCS) foods allowed (baked goods, jams, jellies, confections, dry goods). No mail order. No catering. No wholesale under retail permit. Hampden County has local-control structure; each town Board of Health (Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield, etc.) administers permits and may impose additional requirements including food safety training.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets should not be present during food production; standard food safety GMP applies.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Retail Residential Kitchen permit required from local town/city Board of Health. Massachusetts also requires a home occupation permit per MGL c.40A for home-based businesses in residential zones. Hampden County unincorporated areas require home occupation permit from municipality. No external evidence of business; no on-site employees beyond family; no customer traffic increase.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial inspection required before permit issued; local Board of Health may re-inspect periodically.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Massachusetts requires a Retail Residential Kitchen permit issued by the local Board of Health under 105 CMR 590. The kitchen must be inspected before the permit is issued. Only non-potentially-hazardous (non-TCS) foods allowed (baked goods, jams, jellies, confections, dry goods). No mail order. No catering. No wholesale under retail permit. Hampden County has local-control structure; each town Board of Health (Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield, etc.) administers permits and may impose additional requirements including food safety training.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets should not be present during food production; standard food safety GMP applies.
WATER SUPPLY	Permit applicants on private well or septic may face additional testing requirements per local Board of Health.
HANDWASHING	Handwashing facilities required per 105 CMR 590 food code standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable storage required. No refrigerated finished products permitted under retail residential kitchen permit.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial inspection required before permit issued; local Board of Health may re-inspect periodically.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Retail Residential Kitchen permit required from local town/city Board of Health. Massachusetts also requires a home occupation permit per MGL c.40A for home-based businesses in residential zones. Hampden County unincorporated areas require home occupation permit from municipality. No external evidence of business; no on-site employees beyond family; no customer traffic increase.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home with permit. Mail order prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Family members only; no outside employees under residential kitchen permit.

Relevant county code

MGL c.40A (MA Zoning Act); 105 CMR 590.009(D) (state food code for residential kitchens). Each municipality in Hampden County has own zoning bylaw.

RESEARCH NOTES

Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model: each town Board of Health issues retail permits under 105 CMR 590.009(D). Hampden County has no county-level food authority; Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, and Westfield have city-specific rules. Home occupation permit also required under MGL c.40A for residential zone compliance. No sales cap statewide. Customer traffic at home restricted to normal residential levels. No external signage permitted per typical home occupation rules. Confidence medium: state baseline well-documented; county-specific municipal variation not fully researched.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-questions-and-answers>

<https://www.cityrulelookup.com/home-business/cottage-food/hampden-county-ma>

<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/hampden-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hampden County	Worcester County	Hampshire County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets should not be present during food production; standard food safety GMP applies.	Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required	Pets typically excluded from kitchen during food production per Board of Health guidelines.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home with permit. Mail order prohibited.	No statewide cap. Sales allowed from home, at events, farmers markets, and to retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited und...	Direct sales and sales to retail stores allowed. No mail order or catering. Online sales limited. Each municipality's Board of Health rules...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies by city	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Massachusetts requires a Retail Residential Kitchen permit issued by the local Board of Health under 105 CMR 590. The kitchen must be inspe...	Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model — home kitchen treated as food establishment requiring a local Board of Health permit and ki...	Massachusetts uses a 'residential kitchen' model: home kitchens are treated as food establishments requiring a local Board of Health permit...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable storage required. No refrigerated finished products permitted under retail residential kitchen permit.	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit requirements	Non-PHF foods only. No pickles, sauces, fermented foods, or items requiring variance.
POPULATION	464,575	858,898	153,931

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Hampden 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 105 CMR 590.009(D)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Recommended
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY 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 Hampden County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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