

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hampshire County

Massachusetts · — · FIPS 25015 · Population 153,931 ·
Crosodo Index #2827*

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.

How to start — 60-second path

Hampshire County, Massachusetts — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

Yes

PETS

Pets typically excluded from kitchen during food production per Board of Health guidelines.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Massachusetts cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Massachusetts home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Massachusetts label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

MASSACHUSETTS: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2827* · FIPS 25015 · —

Hampshire County

Population 153,931 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Massachusetts uses a 'residential kitchen' model: home kitchens are treated as food establishments requiring a local Board of Health permit and kitchen inspection. No statewide sales cap. Each town's Board of Health administers permits and may impose additional requirements. Allowed non-PHF foods: baked goods (breads, cookies, cakes, cupcakes, macarons, donuts, muffins, pies), candies, confections, jams/jellies, dry goods, snacks. No mail order or catering. No wholesale.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets typically excluded from kitchen during food production per Board of Health guidelines.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Hampshire County has multiple municipalities (Northampton, Amherst, etc.) each with their own Board of Health rules. Residential Kitchen Permit required from local Board of Health in each municipality. Some cities previously did not allow residential kitchens. Permit fees and requirements vary by town.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Kitchen inspection required by local Board of Health before permit issuance.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Massachusetts uses a 'residential kitchen' model: home kitchens are treated as food establishments requiring a local Board of Health permit and kitchen inspection. No statewide sales cap. Each town's Board of Health administers permits and may impose additional requirements. Allowed non-PHF foods: baked goods (breads, cookies, cakes, cupcakes, macarons, donuts, muffins, pies), candies, confections, jams/jellies, dry goods, snacks. No mail order or catering. No wholesale.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets typically excluded from kitchen during food production per Board of Health guidelines.

WATER SUPPLY

Private well or septic users may face additional testing requirements per local Board of Health.

HANDWASHING

Kitchen inspection by local Board of Health ensures adequate handwashing facilities.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-PHF foods only. No pickles, sauces, fermented foods, or items requiring variance.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Kitchen inspection required by local Board of Health before permit issuance.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — Hampshire County has multiple municipalities (Northampton, Amherst, etc.) each with their own Board of Health rules. Residential Kitchen Permit required from local Board of Health in each municipality. Some cities previously did not allow residential kitchens. Permit fees and requirements vary by town.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales and sales to retail stores allowed. No mail order or catering. Online sales limited. Each municipality's Board of Health rules govern.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local rules apply.

Relevant county code

Individual municipal Board of Health regulations; 105 CMR 590.009(D)

RESEARCH NOTES

Verified-large county. Massachusetts has a distinctive local-control model. Hampshire County has no county-level health department — each municipality (Northampton, Amherst, Easthampton, etc.) runs its own Board of Health. State baseline governs; local Board of Health permit and inspection required.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hampshirecouncil.org>

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

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

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/hampshire-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hampshire County	Berkshire County	Hampden County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets typically excluded from kitchen during food production per Board of Health guidelines.	Not explicitly prohibited by state regulation; individual town Boards of Health may impose additional requirements.	Pets should not be present during food production; standard food safety GMP applies.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales and sales to retail stores allowed. No mail order or catering. Online sales limited. Each municipality's Board of Health rules...	Direct sales permitted from home, farmers markets, and retail. Online sales allowed but no mail order. Catering is prohibited. All sales wi...	Direct-to-consumer sales permitted at farmers markets, events, and from home with permit. Mail order prohibited.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Massachusetts uses a 'residential kitchen' model: home kitchens are treated as food establishments requiring a local Board of Health permit...	Massachusetts treats home kitchens as food establishments requiring a local Board of Health permit and kitchen inspection. No statewide sal...	Massachusetts requires a Retail Residential Kitchen permit issued by the local Board of Health under 105 CMR 590. The kitchen must be inspe...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF foods only. No pickles, sauces, fermented foods, or items requiring variance.	Non-potentially hazardous foods not requiring refrigeration. Stored in food-safe containers.	Non-TCS shelf-stable storage required. No refrigerated finished products permitted under retail residential kitchen permit.
POPULATION	153,931	128,763	464,575

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Hampshire 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/massachusetts.

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 about Hampshire County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/hampshire-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Hampshire County, Massachusetts. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/hampshire-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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