

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Nantucket County

Massachusetts · Nantucket · FIPS 25019 · Population 14,670
· Crosodo Index #2687*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
105 CMR 590.009(D)	Okay	—	MEDIUM	2026-05-06

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: NANTUCKET COUNTY

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Nantucket County

Population 14,670 · 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 permit issuance. Only non-potentially hazardous foods (shelf-stable) allowed. Nantucket is a consolidated town-county; the Nantucket Board of Health administers permits. No state sales cap.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Local Board of Health standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas during production.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Nantucket County is a consolidated county-town (the only one in Massachusetts). The Nantucket Board of Health administers all Residential Kitchen permits. A home occupation permit or business certificate from the town may also be required. Island logistics (ferry access) may affect inspection scheduling timelines.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Pre-operational inspection required by Nantucket Board of Health before permit issuance.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Residential Kitchen permit required from local Board of Health. Kitchen inspection required before permit issuance. Only non-potentially hazardous foods (shelf-stable) allowed. Nantucket is a consolidated town-county; the Nantucket Board of Health administers permits. No state sales cap.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Local Board of Health standards apply; typically animals must be excluded from food prep areas during production.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required per local Board of Health standards.
HANDWASHING	Required per Massachusetts food safety standards and local Board of Health.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable products only. Foods requiring refrigeration or temperature control are not permitted under Residential Kitchen framework.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Pre-operational inspection required by Nantucket Board of Health before permit issuance.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Nantucket County is a consolidated county-town (the only one in Massachusetts). The Nantucket Board of Health administers all Residential Kitchen permits. A home occupation permit or business certificate from the town may also be required. Island logistics (ferry access) may affect inspection scheduling timelines.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only under Retail Residential Kitchen framework. Sales at farmers markets, events, online (direct-to-consumer), and personal delivery. Wholesale to stores requires state DPH Wholesale Residential Kitchen license.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Typically limited to permit holder and household members; outside employees generally not allowed under Residential Kitchen framework.

Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D) (state); Nantucket Board of Health regulations.

RESEARCH NOTES

Massachusetts state baseline applied: 105 CMR 590.009(D). Nantucket County is unique in Massachusetts as a consolidated county-town – the county and town of Nantucket are coterminous. The Nantucket Board of Health administers Residential Kitchen permits. Island geography means inspection logistics differ from mainland counties. Seasonal population fluctuations may affect enforcement patterns. No Nantucket-specific cottage food rules beyond state framework identified. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Nantucket 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 Nantucket County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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