

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Worcester County

Massachusetts · Worcester · FIPS 25027 · Population 858,898 · Crosodo Index #2712\*

STATE BASELINE

105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit)

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

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: WORCESTER COUNTY

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Population 858,898 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit) · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model — home kitchen treated as food establishment requiring a local Board of Health permit and kitchen inspection. Each of Worcester County’s 60 towns/cities administers its own Board of Health. No statewide sales cap. Food handler certification recommended (not required by state but some local Boards require it).)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies by city (Each of Worcester County’s 60+ municipalities has its own Board of Health and may have separate home occupation/zoning requirements. City of Worcester Board of Health: 25 Meade St, Worcester MA. Contact specific town/city Board of Health for permit process. Massachusetts has no uniform home occupation permit requirement for cottage food at state level.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required before permit issuance. Subsequent inspections may occur at Board of Health discretion.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model — home kitchen treated as food establishment requiring a local Board of Health permit and kitchen inspection. Each of Worcester County’s 60 towns/cities administers its own Board of Health. No statewide sales cap. Food handler certification recommended (not required by state but some local Boards require it).
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Potable water required; well/septic users may face additional testing requirements at Board of Health discretion
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Required as part of kitchen inspection compliance
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit requirements

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required before permit issuance. Subsequent inspections may occur at Board of Health discretion.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies by city — Each of Worcester County’s 60+ municipalities has its own Board of Health and may have separate home occupation/zoning requirements. City of Worcester Board of Health: 25 Meade St, Worcester MA. Contact specific town/city Board of Health for permit process. Massachusetts has no uniform home occupation permit requirement for cottage food at state level.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	No statewide cap. Sales allowed from home, at events, farmers markets, and to retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen permit. Wholesale operations may not be conducted under residential kitchen permit.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

### Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D); local Board of Health regulations vary by municipality

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Worcester County has no county-level government with land use authority in Massachusetts — each of the 60+ municipalities has its own Board of Health administering residential kitchen permits. Massachusetts is unique: it uses residential kitchen permits (treated as food establishments) rather than a standalone cottage food law. No county-level URL was available in the input data. The state residential kitchen permit framework requires initial kitchen inspection, which sets it apart from most states.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/worcester-county-discuss>

## State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

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

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

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