

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Schenectady County

New York · Schenectady · FIPS 36093 · Population 159,447 ·
Crosodo Index #2679*

STATE BASELINE

N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4

STATE TIER

Good

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.

NEW YORK: SCHENECTADY COUNTY

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Population 159,447 · State baseline: N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (New York Home Processor Exemption requires registration with NYSDAM. Products must be shelf-stable baked goods (all must be baked — pathogen kill step required), certain jams, jellies, preserves, and snack mixes. No sales cap. Sales only within New York State. No online sales out-of-state. Products must be pre-packaged and labeled.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific NY state restriction on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Schenectady County and the City of Schenectady may require home occupation permits under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement by NYSDAM.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — New York Home Processor Exemption requires registration with NYSDAM. Products must be shelf-stable baked goods (all must be baked — pathogen kill step required), certain jams, jellies, preserves, and snack mixes. No sales cap. Sales only within New York State. No online sales out-of-state. Products must be pre-packaged and labeled.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific NY state restriction on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under NY Home Processor Exemption.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply; adequate handwashing expected.
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable pre-packaged products only; no refrigerated or TCS products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement by NYSDAM.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Schenectady County and the City of Schenectady may require home occupation permits under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, via home delivery, and online (within NY State only). No wholesale or out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local zoning may apply.

Relevant county code

Schenectady County Zoning; N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. NY Home Processor Exemption requires all products to be baked (kill step). No Schenectady County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/12/HomeProcessor.pdf>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/new-york/schenectady-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Schenectady County	Saratoga County	Albany County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific NY state restriction on pets; good manufacturing practices apply.	Not specified in state rules; kitchen must be sanitary	Pets excluded from production areas
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs, flea markets, via home delivery, and online (within NY State only...	Sales at farms, farm stands, farmers markets, craft fairs, flea markets, home delivery, and online — within NY State only. Wholesale sales ...	Direct and indirect sales; farmers markets, events, retail stores, and online permitted
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Conditional	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	New York Home Processor Exemption requires registration with NYS DAM. Products must be shelf-stable baked goods (all must be baked — pathoge...	Only baked goods (must be baked — pathogen kill step required) and certain jams/ jellies/preserves allowed. No unbaked items, no frostings w...	State registration required; shelf-stable baked goods and certain jams/jellies/ preserves only; no TCS foods; labeling required
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable pre-packaged products only; no refrigerated or TCS products.	Shelf-stable non-TCS baked goods and certain preserves only; no refrigerated products	Sanitary storage of non-TCS foods
POPULATION	159,447	236,328	315,041

State context — New York cottage food law

Schenectady County's rules sit on top of New York's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. Law §251-z-4; 1 CRR-NY 276.4	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
Yes	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Yes — Wholesale to restaurants, cafes, and grocery stores within New York State is explicitly permitted. Products may also be sold online (NY residents only) and via delivery. Shipping out of state is not permitted. Registration is free, location-specific, and has no expiration date.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/251-Z-4>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/new-york/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/new-york/schenectady-county-discuss>
