

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bristol County

Rhode Island · Bristol · FIPS 44001 · Population 50,658 ·
Crosodo Index #2813*

STATE BASELINE

R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2

STATE TIER

Poor

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

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.

RHODE ISLAND: BRISTOL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2813* · FIPS 44001 · Bristol

Bristol County

Population 50,658 · State baseline: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Conditional (Rhode Island allows only non-refrigerated baked goods (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require refrigeration). Annual sales cap \$50,000. Must register with RI DOH (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Kitchen inspection required before registration. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Bristol County consists of three towns (Bristol, Barrington, Warren) each with their own town councils and zoning. Rhode Island cottage food operations require registration with state DOH including local zoning board confirmation that residential use is permitted. Recommend verifying with the relevant town planning office.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required before registration issued. DOH may inspect at any time for compliance.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Rhode Island allows only non-refrigerated baked goods (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require refrigeration). Annual sales cap \$50,000. Must register with RI DOH (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Kitchen inspection required before registration. Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	Proof of water potability required (private well test or utility bill).
HANDWASHING	Required as part of kitchen inspection compliance.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must not require refrigeration.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required before registration issued. DOH may inspect at any time for compliance.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Bristol County consists of three towns (Bristol, Barrington, Warren) each with their own town councils and zoning. Rhode Island cottage food operations require registration with state DOH including local zoning board confirmation that residential use is permitted. Recommend verifying with the relevant town planning office.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, consignment, or sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycare facilities, or schools.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2; N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 (reference for comparison); Bristol County town zoning codes

RESEARCH NOTES

Rhode Island is among the most restrictive cottage food states, allowing only non-refrigerated baked goods (no other food categories). Registration fee \$65. Kitchen inspection required. Annual cap \$50,000. Bristol County is RI's smallest county by area, containing three coastal towns. Note: RI does not have county governments with regulatory authority; the three towns in Bristol County govern their own zoning. County_seat field was blank in input; county seat/shire town is Bristol.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=257>

<http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE21/21-27/21-27-6.1.htm>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bristol County	Newport County	Kent County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law, but GMP requirements apply during inspection.	Kitchen inspection will evaluate conditions; no specific statutory statement on pets.	DOH inspection applies; pets likely required away from food prep areas.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, consignment, or sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facil...	Direct sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, no grocery store/restaurant sales, no sales to long-term care facilities, group homes,...	Direct sales only within Rhode Island. Products may not be sold outside the state.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Rhode Island allows only non-refrigerated baked goods (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do...	Rhode Island has one of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods are allowed (double crust pies,...	Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must not require refrigeration.	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond what is evaluated in inspection.	Non-refrigerated shelf-stable baked goods stored properly.
POPULATION	50,658	85,442	170,168

State context — Rhode Island cottage food law

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

STATUTE R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2	ANNUAL SALES CAP 50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — No wholesale or consignment sales permitted. Sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycare facilities, and schools are prohibited. Internet/mail/phone sales are permissible but the operator or designee must personally deliver within the state. Farmers market and temporary event sales require an additional retail food peddler license.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE21/21-27/21-27-6.1.htm>

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=257>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/rhode-island/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/bristol-county-discuss>
