

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Newport County

Rhode Island · — · FIPS 44005 · Population 85,442 · Crosodo
Index #2788*

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: NEWPORT COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2788* · FIPS 44005 · —

Newport County

Population 85,442 · State baseline: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Rhode Island has one of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods are allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes not requiring refrigeration). Registration required (\$65 fee). Kitchen inspection required before license. Food handler training completion required. Only direct sales permitted (no wholesale, grocery stores, restaurants). Products may not leave Rhode Island.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Kitchen inspection will evaluate conditions; no specific statutory statement on pets.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Rhode Island has no county government structure; municipalities (Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Jamestown, Tiverton, Little Compton, Bristol, Warren) govern locally. Newport County is a geographic designation only. Each municipality may have home occupation permits. Newport City and other Newport County municipalities should be consulted for local zoning and business permit requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Rhode Island has one of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods are allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes not requiring refrigeration). Registration required (\$65 fee). Kitchen inspection required before license. Food handler training completion required. Only direct sales permitted (no wholesale, grocery stores, restaurants). Products may not leave Rhode Island.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Kitchen inspection will evaluate conditions; no specific statutory statement on pets.

WATER SUPPLY

Proof of water potability required (well water test or utility bill).

HANDWASHING

Kitchen inspection covers food safety infrastructure including handwashing.

FOOD STORAGE

No specific statutory storage requirements beyond what is evaluated in inspection.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required before license. DOH may inspect at any time for compliance.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Varies — Rhode Island has no county government structure; municipalities (Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Jamestown, Tiverton, Little Compton, Bristol, Warren) govern locally. Newport County is a geographic designation only. Each municipality may have home occupation permits. Newport City and other Newport County municipalities should be consulted for local zoning and business permit requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, no grocery store/restaurant sales, no sales to long-term care facilities, group homes, daycares, or schools. Products may not leave Rhode Island.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

Relevant county code

Rhode Island has no county government. Municipal zoning applies. R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 governs at state level.

RESEARCH NOTES

Newport County, RI is a geographic county without county government. Rhode Island's cottage food law (§21-27-6.2, enacted 2022, amended 2024) is among the most restrictive in the nation: baked goods only, inspection, registration, direct sales only, no out-of-state sales. Newport County residents are subject to state law and their specific municipality's ordinances. No county-level rules to apply. Confidence is medium: state law confirmed from RI Legislature official source; municipal-level rules not verified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://newportcountyrhodeisland.gov>

<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/newport-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Newport County	Washington County	Kent County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Kitchen inspection will evaluate conditions; no specific statutory statement on pets.	Not specified; kitchen sanitation required.	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 sales only within Rhode Island. No wholesale, no grocery store/restaurant sales, no sales to long-term care facilities, group homes,...	Direct sales only. No wholesale/consignment. No sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycares, or ...	Direct sales only within Rhode Island. Products may not be sold outside the state.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Rhode Island has one of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods are allowed (double crust pies,...	One of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscui...	Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that do not require...
FOOD STORAGE	No specific statutory storage requirements beyond what is evaluated in inspection.	Only non-refrigerated baked goods. Stored in food-safe containers.	Non-refrigerated shelf-stable baked goods stored properly.
POPULATION	85,442	129,998	170,168

State context — Rhode Island cottage food law

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/newport-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 Newport County, Rhode Island. 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 free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/rhode-island/newport-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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