

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Providence County

Rhode Island · Providence · FIPS 44007 · Population 657,984
· Crosodo Index #2579*

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: PROVIDENCE COUNTY

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Providence County

Population 657,984 · State baseline: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Kitchen must meet housing code standards; must have adequate sinks, nonabsorbent surfaces, drainage, pest controls, and separation from bathrooms/laundry. Private well water requires annual coliform/E. coli/nitrate testing. Pets must be excluded from food prep/storage areas. Commercial kitchen may be used as alternative.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be kept out of food preparation and storage areas during production

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (State law does not preempt local ordinances. Producers should check with their city/town planning or zoning office. Some municipalities in Providence County may require a home occupation permit or zoning approval. HOA/lease restrictions may also apply.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (RIDOH may inspect home kitchens at any time to ensure compliance; inspection authority is ongoing not just upon complaint)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Kitchen must meet housing code standards; must have adequate sinks, nonabsorbent surfaces, drainage, pest controls, and separation from bathrooms/laundry. Private well water requires annual coliform/E. coli/nitrate testing. Pets must be excluded from food prep/storage areas. Commercial kitchen may be used as alternative.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets must be kept out of food preparation and storage areas during production
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal or private well; private well requires annual testing for total coliform, E. coli, and nitrates before registration
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per RI Food Code kitchen standards
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored in the primary residence following safe food handling guidelines

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — RIDOH may inspect home kitchens at any time to ensure compliance; inspection authority is ongoing not just upon complaint
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — State law does not preempt local ordinances. Producers should check with their city/town planning or zoning office. Some municipalities in Providence County may require a home occupation permit or zoning approval. HOA/lease restrictions may also apply.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales within Rhode Island only. Pickup at residence and delivery by registrant or designee are allowed. Online and mail order permitted within state. Selling at farmers markets and temporary events requires a separate Retail Food Peddler License (\$65/yr, covers all events statewide).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; residence-based operation by registrant

Relevant county code

No county-level code found; Providence County is largely governed by constituent municipalities. State law at R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2.

RESEARCH NOTES

Rhode Island enacted H. 7123 in June 2022 creating its first non-farmer cottage food program (R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2). Registration with RIDOH required (\$65 fee); food handler training or food safety certification required; notarized affidavit required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; direct sales only within RI. RIDOH has ongoing inspection authority. State law does NOT preempt local ordinances, so Providence County municipalities may impose additional home occupation requirements. Providence County has no county government per se — it is administered through its 39 municipalities. Confidence medium because no specific municipality-level zoning code was retrieved for unincorporated areas (Rhode Island has no true unincorporated county areas).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.providenceri.gov>

<https://health.ri.gov/food-safety/cottage-foods>

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/rhode-island/>

<https://web.uri.edu/risbdc/wp-content/uploads/sites/987/Cottage-Foods-101.pdf>

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

State context — Rhode Island cottage food law

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

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