

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Washington County

Rhode Island · — · FIPS 44009 · Population 129,998 ·  
Crosodo Index #2794\*

## 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: WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2794\* · FIPS 44009 · —

# Washington County

Population 129,998 · State baseline: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2 · **MEDIUM**

## QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (One of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that don't require refrigeration). Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Registration required (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Home kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only.)

### SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

### PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; kitchen sanitation required.

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Washington County (RI) municipalities (South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances and home occupation rules. RI counties do not have county-level governments; all governance is through the state and municipalities. No specific state-level preemption of local zoning for cottage food.)

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

### INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

## Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — One of the most restrictive cottage food laws in the US. Only non-refrigerated baked goods allowed (double crust pies, yeast breads, biscuits, brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes that don't require refrigeration). Annual gross sales capped at \$50,000. Registration required (\$65 fee). Food handler training required. Home kitchen inspection required. Direct sales only.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; kitchen sanitation required.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; private well users face additional testing requirements.
HANDWASHING	Required; inspected during home kitchen inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-refrigerated baked goods. Stored in food-safe containers.

## Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Home kitchen inspection required before registration. RI DOH may inspect at any time for compliance.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Washington County (RI) municipalities (South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances and home occupation rules. RI counties do not have county-level governments; all governance is through the state and municipalities. No specific state-level preemption of local zoning for cottage food.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales only. No wholesale/consignment. No sales to grocery stores, restaurants, long-term care facilities, group homes, daycares, or schools. Products may not be sold outside Rhode Island.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified.

**Relevant county code**

R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2. Note: Washington County RI (also called South County) has no county government; all governance is municipal.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

State baseline (RI) confirmed: R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2, \$65 registration, \$50,000 cap, baked goods only, kitchen inspection required. Washington County RI (often called South County) has no actual county government — all zoning and permits are handled at the municipal level (South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly, etc.). County seat field is blank in input data. Confidence medium — applying state baseline; no county-level governance to research.

**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/washington-county-discuss>

## State context — Rhode Island cottage food law

Washington 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b>
R.I. Gen. Laws §21-27-6.2	50000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b>
Yes	Yes
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b>	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b>
Yes	Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b>	
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.	

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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