

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Addison County

Vermont · Middlebury (village) · FIPS 50001 · Population
38,047 · Crosodo Index #2219*

STATE BASELINE

18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

30000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-06

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.

VERMONT: ADDISON COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2219* · FIPS 50001 · Middlebury (village)

Addison County

Population 38,047 · State baseline: 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Vermont state cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025; 18 V.S.A. §4351) applies. Cottage food operators with gross annual sales at or below \$30,000 are exempt from state licensing. Vermont counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village clerk/planning board to confirm local home occupation or home-based business zoning compliance. The Vermont Department of Health administers the state program.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption. Good hygiene practices recommended.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Home occupation zoning compliance is determined at the municipal (town) level. Producers must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office to determine if a home occupation permit or approval is needed. Some Vermont towns may require a zoning permit for home-based businesses; others may allow them by right. Additionally, producers may need to register with the Vermont Secretary of State if forming a business entity, and may need a Vermont tax account depending on sales volume.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Complaint-based; the Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspection for exempt cottage food operators.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Vermont state cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025; 18 V.S.A. §4351) applies. Cottage food operators with gross annual sales at or below \$30,000 are exempt from state licensing. Vermont counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village clerk/planning board to confirm local home occupation or home-based business zoning compliance. The Vermont Department of Health administers the state program.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption. Good hygiene practices recommended.
WATER SUPPLY	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices required under 18 V.S.A. §4351 and Vermont manufactured food rules.
FOOD STORAGE	Proper storage per standard Vermont food manufacturing requirements. Cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional — Complaint-based; the Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint. No routine inspection for exempt cottage food operators.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Home occupation zoning compliance is determined at the municipal (town) level. Producers must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office to determine if a home occupation permit or approval is needed. Some Vermont towns may require a zoning permit for home-based businesses; others may allow them by right. Additionally, producers may need to register with the Vermont Secretary of State if forming a business entity, and may need a Vermont tax account depending on sales volume.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. In-person sales, farmers markets, and farm stands are permitted. Online sales with local delivery may be permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales allowed under the cottage food exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Cottage food production must occur in the home kitchen of the cottage food operator’s private residential dwelling.

Relevant county code

18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption; individual town zoning bylaws (varies by municipality)

RESEARCH NOTES

Vermont counties have no county government structure and do not administer zoning or business licensing. All zoning is at the municipal (town) level. Addison County seat is Middlebury village. The Vermont Department of Health (not VDACS equivalent) administers the cottage food program under 18 V.S.A. §4351 and Act 42 (2025). Act 42 raised the exemption threshold to \$30,000 gross annual sales. Producers must contact their individual town planning office. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence based on state baseline and confirmed absence of county-level zoning in Vermont.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://healthvermont.gov/health-environment/food-lodging/home-based-food-establishments>
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/085/04351>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/vermont/addison-county-discuss>

State context — Vermont cottage food law

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

STATUTE 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption	ANNUAL SALES CAP 30000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Food made under a license exemption cannot be sold to restaurants or other licensed food establishments. Sales must be direct to final consumers. Exempt producers must file an annual attestation with the Vermont Department of Health by January 15 each year and complete online food safety training.	

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

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/085/04351>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/food-lodging-program/home-based-food-licenses-and-exemptions>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/vermont/>

Questions?

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

<https://crosodo.com/nb/vermont/addison-county-discuss>
