

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Chittenden County

Vermont · Burlington · FIPS 50007 · Population 168,309 ·  
Crosodo Index #2572\*

## STATE BASELINE

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

## STATE TIER

Okay

## ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

30000

## CONFIDENCE

HIGH

## 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.

VERMONT: CHITTENDEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2572\* · FIPS 50007 · Burlington

# Chittenden County

Population 168,309 · State baseline: 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption

**HIGH**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): gross annual receipts ≤\$30,000, production in home kitchen of private residential dwelling or personal property kitchen only. Non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, dry herbs, trail mix, granola, cereal, mixed nuts, flavored vinegar, popcorn, coffee beans, dry tea, and home-canned pickles/vegetables/fruits (NCHFP-approved recipes, pH ≤4.6) allowed. Annual attestation and food safety training required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Yes (Burlington requires a home occupation zoning permit (Administrative Approval or Conditional Use Approval via Development Review Board per Section 5.4.6 of Burlington Zoning Ordinance). Burlington is the county seat — city rules apply within Burlington. Chittenden County municipalities each have their own zoning bylaws for home-based businesses. Vermont DOH food licensing is separate from local zoning. Vermont Department of Health licenses and inspects food establishments; cottage food operators with ≤\$30,000 qualify for exemption.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Vermont DOH may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections for qualifying cottage food operators.)

### Home kitchen rules

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): gross annual receipts ≤\$30,000, production in home kitchen of private residential dwelling or personal property kitchen only. Non-PHF baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, dry herbs, trail mix, granola, cereal, mixed nuts, flavored vinegar, popcorn, coffee beans, dry tea, and home-canned pickles/vegetables/fruits (NCHFP-approved recipes, pH ≤4.6) allowed. Annual attestation and food safety training required.

**SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN**

No

**PET RESTRICTIONS**

No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.

**WATER SUPPLY**

Potable water supply required.

**HANDWASHING**

Adequate handwashing per food safety training.

**FOOD STORAGE**

Shelf-stable non-PHF foods stored appropriately.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Vermont DOH may investigate upon complaint. No routine inspections for qualifying cottage food operators.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Yes — Burlington requires a home occupation zoning permit (Administrative Approval or Conditional Use Approval via Development Review Board per Section 5.4.6 of Burlington Zoning Ordinance). Burlington is the county seat — city rules apply within Burlington. Chittenden County municipalities each have their own zoning bylaws for home-based businesses. Vermont DOH food licensing is separate from local zoning. Vermont Department of Health licenses and inspects food establishments; cottage food operators with ≤\$30,000 qualify for exemption.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Yes
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and similar venues. Cannot sell to restaurants or licensed food establishments under cottage food exemption.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	No state restriction specified for cottage food operators.

### Relevant county code

18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025); Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance §5.4.6

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Vermont DOH page ([healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov)) directly confirmed Act 42 (2025) raised cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts (from prior \$10,000 cap). Burlington city guide confirms home occupation zoning permit required from Department of Permitting & Inspections Zoning Division, with two levels (Administrative Approval or Conditional Use Approval). County seat was blank in input — confirmed as Burlington. Input data had CSV parsing issues — county\_govt\_url shows 'Okay' (tier value).

#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- <https://healthvermont.gov/health-environment/food-lodging/home-based-food-establishments>
- <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/food-safety-consumer-protection/cottage-foods>
- <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6327/Doing-Business-in-Burlington-Guide-PDF?bidId=>

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

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Chittenden County	Washington County	Franklin County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.	Not specified in state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and similar venues. Cannot sell to restaurants or licensed food establishments under cottage food ...	Direct sales to consumers only. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments. Farmers markets, home pickup, events permitted.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required for exempt operations. No sales to restaurants or lice...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): gross annual receipts ≤\$30,000, production in home kitchen of private residential dwelling ...	Vermont Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. An...	Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): non-potentially hazardous foods including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, dry herbs, tra...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-PHF foods stored appropriately.	Non-TCS, shelf-stable products required.	Products must be non-potentially hazardous.
POPULATION	168,309	59,768	50,101

## State context — Vermont cottage food law

Chittenden 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b> 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 30000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> No
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> 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.	

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

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### 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/>

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## Questions?

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

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

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