

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Franklin County

Vermont · Saint Albans · FIPS 50011 · Population 50,101 ·  
Crosodo Index #2323\*

## 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

2026-05-05

**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: FRANKLIN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2323\* · FIPS 50011 · Saint Albans

# Franklin County

Population 50,101 · 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 (Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): non-potentially hazardous foods including 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 (pH ≤4.6, NCHFP-approved recipes). Annual gross receipts cap \$30,000. Direct-to-consumer sales only. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Not specified in state cottage food law.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont governance is primarily at town level. Franklin County towns (St. Albans, Swanton, Fairfax, etc.) each have their own zoning. Recommend verifying with the specific town where the operation is located.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (No routine inspection for cottage food exempt operations. DOH may investigate on complaint.)

### Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): non-potentially hazardous foods including 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 (pH ≤4.6, NCHFP-approved recipes). Annual gross receipts cap \$30,000. Direct-to-consumer sales only. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	Not specified in state cottage food law.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	Not specified in state cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Not explicitly required for exempt operations.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Products must be non-potentially hazardous.

### Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — No routine inspection for cottage food exempt operations. DOH may investigate on complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont governance is primarily at town level. Franklin County towns (St. Albans, Swanton, Fairfax, etc.) each have their own zoning. Recommend verifying with the specific town where the operation is located.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required for exempt operations. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law.

### Relevant county code

18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025); Franklin County town-level zoning codes

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Vermont’s Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food exemption threshold to \$30,000 from the prior \$10,000. Annual attestation and food safety training required. Vermont counties have no regulatory authority; all governance at town level. Franklin County is in northwestern Vermont near the Quebec border.

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#### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<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/franklin-county-discuss>

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Franklin County	Chittenden County	Grand Isle County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state cottage food law.	No explicit state restriction; food safety training requirements apply.	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required for exempt operations. No sales to restaurants or lice...	Direct sales from home, farmers markets, and similar venues. Cannot sell to restaurants or licensed food establishments under cottage food ...	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exempti...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Conditional
RESTRICTIONS	Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): non-potentially hazardous foods including baked goods, candy, jams, jellies, dry herbs, tra...	Cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025): gross annual receipts ≤\$30,000, production in home kitchen of private residential dwelling ...	Vermont state cottage food operator exemption (Act 42, 2025; 18 V.S.A. §4351) applies. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. Vermont ...
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be non-potentially hazardous.	Shelf-stable non-PHF foods stored appropriately.	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.
POPULATION	50,101	168,309	7,335

## State context — Vermont cottage food law

Franklin 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](#).

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

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

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