

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Vermont

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption.

STATUTE

TIER

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

IJ GRADE

COUNTIES COVERED

LAST VERIFIED

**B/D+****14****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.

## OFFICIAL STATE HANDOUT

# Vermont Cottage Food Law — Official Guidance Summary

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets · 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption · Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets · <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/ACTS/ACT042/ACT042%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

Vermont's cottage food rules are set by 18 V.S.A. §4351; Act 42 (2025) cottage food operator exemption. The summary below is drawn from Crosodo's verified statute research and official agency guidance. Always confirm current requirements on the state agency website before you sell.

## Program basics

### What law governs cottage food in Vermont?

- Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 18 Health, Chapter 085 Food and Lodging Establishments, §4351 License from Department of Health; Cottage Food Operator Exemption under Act 42 (2025)

### What is the annual sales cap?

- 30000

### Is registration or a permit required?

- Yes

### Is a food handler certificate required?

- No

### Are kitchen inspections required?

- Upon-complaint

## Allowed products and sales channels

### What foods are allowed?

- Cottage food operators (under Act 42, 2025 exemption) may sell non-potentially-hazardous 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 with equilibrium pH 4.6 or lower (using NCHFP-approved recipes), as long as gross annual receipts do not exceed \$30,000.
- A separate Home Bakery License is available for larger operations under \$10,000 in production.

### What foods are prohibited?

- TCS (time/temperature control for safety) foods are prohibited under the cottage food exemption, including refrigerated baked goods (quiche, cheesecake), meats, poultry, fish, dairy, cooked plant-based foods, and other foods requiring temperature control.
- Cottage food products cannot be sold to restaurants or other licensed food establishments.

### Can I sell to retailers or restaurants (indirect sales)?

- 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.

## Labeling

### What labeling is required?

- Labels must include: name and address of producer, name of food product, ingredients in descending order, net weight/volume, allergen information per federal requirements, and the statement 'Made in a home kitchen not inspected by the Vermont Department of Health' in at least 10-point font in a contrasting color.

- Nutritional labels required only if nutrient content or health claims are made.

## Statute excerpt

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

### What does the Vermont cottage food statute say?

- § 4351. License from Department of Health (a) A person shall not operate or maintain a food manufacturing facility, retail food establishment, lodging establishment, children’s camp, seafood vending facility, or any other place in which food is prepared and served, unless he or she obtains and holds from the Commissioner a license authorizing such operation.
- [Act 42 (2025) provides a licensing exemption for cottage food operators that: have gross annual receipts of \$30,000.00 or less from the sale of cottage food products; produce or package cottage food products solely in the home kitchen of the cottage food operator’s private residential dwelling or in a kitchen on their personal property. Cottage food products are defined in rule as food sold by a cottage food operator that does not require refrigeration or time or temperature control for safety.
- Cottage foods include, but are not limited to: non-potentially hazardous baked goods, candy, jams and jellies, dry herbs, trail mix, granola, cereal, mixed nuts, flavored vinegar, popcorn, coffee beans, dry tea, home-canned pickles, vegetables, or fruits with an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or lower or a water activity value of 0.85 or less that are made using recipes approved by the National Center for Home Food Preservation or reviewed by a food processing authority for safety.
- Food made under a license exemption cannot be sold to restaurants or other licensed food establishments.]

## Official sources

### Where should I verify these rules?

- State agency cottage food page: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/food-lodging-program/home-based-food-licenses-and-exemptions>
- Statute: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/085/04351>

Summarized from official Vermont cottage food statute research and agency guidance. Agency rules change — verify on the official site before relying on this information.

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## Executive summary

This report covers the Vermont cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 14 Vermont counties included in this dataset.

<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 30000	<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes
<b>FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION</b> No	<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint
<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes	<b>INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)</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.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Vermont’s cottage food landscape changed significantly with Act 42 (2025), which raised the cottage food operator exemption threshold to \$30,000 gross annual receipts (from the prior \$10,000 cap under the home bakery permit). The input batch cited '20 V.S.A. §2912 (Home Bakery)' but the primary operative provision is now 18 V.S.A. §4351 and the Act 42 (2025) exemption administered by the Vermont Department of Health. The Department of Health (not Agency of Agriculture) administers this program. Annual exemption attestation plus food safety training are required. A separate \$10,000 food processor exemption also exists for processed (non-cottage) foods. The IJ dual grade (B/D+) may reflect the pre-2025 more restrictive framework; the 2025 Act raises the cap substantially. The state\_dept\_cottage\_url has been updated to the Health Department’s operative page.

### TOP QUESTIONS HOME BAKERS ASK ABOUT VERMONT

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

Not specified in state data — check county

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Varies by county — see below

**STATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED?**

Yes

**HEALTH DEPT INSPECTION?**

Upon-complaint

**SALES CAP**

30000

**ONLINE / SHIPPING ALLOWED?**

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.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Varies by county — see county details below

**HOME KITCHEN BASELINE**

Varies by county

County rules can add restrictions on top of the state baseline. Always verify with your local health department and planning office.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR BAKERS IN VERMONT**

- Vermont (Okay tier) — annual sales cap: 30000.
- Home kitchen rules vary by county — use the county sections below for permits, inspections, and zoning overlays.
- Check whether your county requires a separate dedicated kitchen, home occupation permit, or local business license.
- Labeling and registration requirements are set by state law; confirm exact wording with Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Vermont Department of Health (Food & Lodging Program).
- Registration required: Yes.
- Direct vs 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.).

**PORCH / ON-SITE SALES**

These are frequently more restricted by local zoning than by cottage food law. Check the county-level "On-site / porch pickup" answers and confirm with county planning.

**RECOMMENDED FIRST STEPS**

1. Confirm your county rules using the county sections below or the standalone county PDF.
2. Check if you need any local business license or home occupation permit (most don't).
3. Prepare labels with the required home-kitchen disclosure (wording varies by state/county).
4. Register with the state if your projected sales or product type requires it (check the registration field).
5. Start with direct sales at farmers markets or on-site — often the easiest path in Vermont.

# Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 18 Health, Chapter 085 Food and Lodging Establishments, §4351 License from Department of Health; Cottage Food Operator Exemption under Act 42 (2025)

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**CITATION**

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

**ENACTED**

2025

**LAST AMENDED**

2025

**CONFIDENCE**

HIGH

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## Allowed foods

Cottage food operators (under Act 42, 2025 exemption) may sell non-potentially-hazardous 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 with equilibrium pH 4.6 or lower (using NCHFP-approved recipes), as long as gross annual receipts do not exceed \$30,000. A separate Home Bakery License is available for larger operations under \$10,000 in production.

## Prohibited foods

TCS (time/temperature control for safety) foods are prohibited under the cottage food exemption, including refrigerated baked goods (quiche, cheesecake), meats, poultry, fish, dairy, cooked plant-based foods, and other foods requiring temperature control. Cottage food products cannot be sold to restaurants or other licensed food establishments.

## Labeling requirements

Labels must include: name and address of producer, name of food product, ingredients in descending order, net weight/volume, allergen information per federal requirements, and the statement 'Made in a home kitchen not inspected by the Vermont Department of Health' in at least 10-point font in a contrasting color. Nutritional labels required only if nutrient content or health claims are made.

## Statutory text – verbatim excerpt

### STATUTE EXCERPT – VERBATIM

§ 4351. License from Department of Health (a) A person shall not operate or maintain a food manufacturing facility, retail food establishment, lodging establishment, children’s camp, seafood vending facility, or any other place in which food is prepared and served, unless he or she obtains and holds from the Commissioner a license authorizing such operation. [Act 42 (2025) provides a licensing exemption for cottage food operators that: have gross annual receipts of \$30,000.00 or less from the sale of cottage food products; produce or package cottage food products solely in the home kitchen of the cottage food operator’s private residential dwelling or in a kitchen on their personal property. Cottage food products are defined in rule as food sold by a cottage food operator that does not require refrigeration or time or temperature control for safety. Cottage foods include, but are not limited to: non-potentially hazardous baked goods, candy, jams and jellies, dry herbs, trail mix, granola, cereal, mixed nuts, flavored vinegar, popcorn, coffee beans, dry tea, home-canned pickles, vegetables, or fruits with an equilibrium pH value of 4.6 or lower or a water activity value of 0.85 or less that are made using recipes approved by the National Center for Home Food Preservation or reviewed by a food processing authority for safety. Food made under a license exemption cannot be sold to restaurants or other licensed food establishments.]

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

### Official sources

**Statute** <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/085/04351>

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

**Registration** <https://vtдох.safefoodinspection.com/Login.aspx>

**Extension service** <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/>

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

State dept of agriculture / health: **Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Vermont Department of Health (Food & Lodging Program)**

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## County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 14 Vermont counties below are listed alphabetically (Crosodo Index\* shown for reference – see methodology at end of report). The Crosodo Index is our internal ranking of U.S. counties by how permissive the combined state + county rules are for home cottage food operations.

**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**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	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.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption. Good hygiene practices recommended.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under 18 V.S.A. §4351 and Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	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>

**VERMONT: BENNINGTON COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2218\* · FIPS 50003 · —

# Bennington County

Population 37,039 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. 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 zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**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. Producers must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office for home occupation requirements. County seat field is blank in input data.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption. Good hygiene practices recommended.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office for home occupation requirements. County seat field is blank in input data.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. Bennington County seat field is blank in input data. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

#### 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/bennington-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: CALEDONIA COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2217\* · FIPS 50005 · Saint Johnsbury

# Caledonia County

Population 30,535 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. 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 zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Caledonia County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Saint Johnsbury) for home occupation requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Caledonia County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Saint Johnsbury) for home occupation requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

#### 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/caledonia-county-discuss>

**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>

**VERMONT: ESSEX COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2216\* · FIPS 50009 · Guildhall

# Essex County

Population 6,037 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. Vermont counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Essex County is the least populated county in Vermont. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Essex County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office for home occupation requirements. Note: many small Essex County towns may have no formal zoning ordinance.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Essex County is the least populated county in Vermont. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Essex County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office for home occupation requirements. Note: many small Essex County towns may have no formal zoning ordinance.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. Essex County is Vermont’s least-populated county; many towns may lack formal zoning. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

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#### 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/essex-county-discuss>

**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.

#### 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>

**VERMONT: GRAND ISLE COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2215\* · FIPS 50013 · North Hero

# Grand Isle County

Population 7,528 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. Vermont counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Grand Isle County is Vermont’s smallest county (Lake Champlain islands). Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Grand Isle County must contact their specific island town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of North Hero, Town of South Hero, Town of Alburgh) for home occupation requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Grand Isle County is Vermont’s smallest county (Lake Champlain islands). Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Grand Isle County must contact their specific island town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of North Hero, Town of South Hero, Town of Alburgh) for home occupation requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. Grand Isle County comprises the Lake Champlain islands. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

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#### 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/grand-isle-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: LAMOILLE COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2214\* · FIPS 50015 · Hyde Park

# Lamoille County

Population 26,248 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. 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 zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Lamoille County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Hyde Park, Town of Morristown/Morrisville) for home occupation requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Lamoille County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Hyde Park, Town of Morristown/Morrisville) for home occupation requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

#### 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/lamoille-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: ORANGE COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2213\* · FIPS 50017 · Chelsea

# Orange County

Population 30,050 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. Vermont counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Orange County VT is distinct from Orange County VA (FIPS 51137). Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Orange County VT must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Chelsea) for home occupation requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Orange County VT is distinct from Orange County VA (FIPS 51137). Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Orange County VT must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Chelsea) for home occupation requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. Orange County VT (Chelsea) is distinct from Orange County VA. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

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#### 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/orange-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: ORLEANS COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2212\* · FIPS 50019 · Newport

# Orleans County

Population 27,726 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. Vermont counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Orleans County is in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Orleans County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., City of Newport, Town of Derby) for home occupation requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Orleans County is in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Orleans County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., City of Newport, Town of Derby) for home occupation requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. Orleans County is in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

#### 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/orleans-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: RUTLAND COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2786\* · FIPS 50021 · Rutland

# Rutland County

Population 60,585 · 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 Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required. Registration required. Direct sales to consumers only; no sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Vermont municipalities (towns) control zoning. Rutland County operators should check with the City of Rutland or their local town zoning administrator for home occupation requirements. Vermont has strong local control over land use.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection for cottage food operators.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Vermont Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required. Registration required. Direct sales to consumers only; no sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement mentioned for cottage food operators.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food safety training covers hygiene; no specific standalone handwashing mandate.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS, shelf-stable products required.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection for cottage food operators.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Vermont municipalities (towns) control zoning. Rutland County operators should check with the City of Rutland or their local town zoning administrator for home occupation requirements. Vermont has strong local control over land use.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments. Farmers markets, home pickup, events permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law.

### Relevant county code

Vermont municipalities control zoning; check City of Rutland or local town zoning bylaws.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

Vermont Act 42 (2025) significantly improved the cottage food landscape by raising the cap from \$10,000 to \$30,000 under the exemption. The Vermont Department of Health administers the program (not the Agency of Agriculture). Rutland County contains the City of Rutland; local zoning administered at town/city level in Vermont. Allowed foods include 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).

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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/rutland-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: WASHINGTON COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2789\* · FIPS 50023 · Montpelier

# Washington County

Population 59,768 · 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 Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required. Registration required. Direct sales to consumers only.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Vermont municipalities (towns) control zoning. Washington County operators should check with the City of Montpelier or their local town zoning administrator. Vermont has strong local land use control.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection.)

## Home kitchen rules

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Vermont Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required. Registration required. Direct sales to consumers only.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement for cottage food operators.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food safety training covers hygiene; no specific standalone handwashing mandate.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS, shelf-stable products required.

## Inspection & permitting

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Vermont municipalities (towns) control zoning. Washington County operators should check with the City of Montpelier or their local town zoning administrator. Vermont has strong local land use control.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

## Customer-facing rules

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales to consumers only. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments. Farmers markets, home pickup, events permitted.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified in state law.

## Relevant county code

Vermont municipalities control zoning; check City of Montpelier or local town zoning bylaws.

### RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Washington County, VT (county seat is Montpelier, the state capital). The Vermont Department of Health administers cottage food (not Agency of Agriculture). Act 42 (2025) raised the cap from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Montpelier is a small city with its own local regulations; operators should verify zoning compliance.

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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/washington-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: WINDHAM COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2288\* · FIPS 50025 · Newfane

# Windham County

Population 45,627 · 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. Gross annual sales must be \$30,000 or less. Vermont counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Windham County is in southeast Vermont (Brattleboro area). Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Windham County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Brattleboro, Town of Newfane) for home occupation requirements.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Conditional (Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — 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 counties have no county-level government and do not administer zoning. Windham County is in southeast Vermont (Brattleboro area). Zoning is municipal (town-level). Producers must contact their individual town or village zoning office for home occupation compliance.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No explicit statutory pet restriction under the cottage food exemption.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No water testing requirement stated under the cottage food exemption.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Standard food safety practices required under Vermont manufactured food rules.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Proper storage; cottage foods must not require refrigeration or temperature control for safety.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Conditional — Complaint-based; Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Conditional — Vermont counties have no county government and no county zoning. Producers in Windham County must contact their specific town or village planning/zoning office (e.g., Town of Brattleboro, Town of Newfane) for home occupation requirements.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Conditional

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Vermont cottage food exemption: direct sales only. Farmers markets and farm stands permitted. No indirect/wholesale sales under the exemption.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Vermont cottage food rules do not specify employee limits. Production must occur in the 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. Windham County is in southeast Vermont. All zoning at municipal level. State baseline for Vermont applies. Medium confidence.

#### 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/windham-county-discuss>

**VERMONT: WINDSOR COUNTY**

CROSODO INDEX #2795\* · FIPS 50027 · Woodstock

# Windsor County

Population 57,832 · 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 Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required. Registration required. Direct sales to consumers only; no sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (Vermont municipalities (towns) control zoning. Windsor County operators should check with the Town of Woodstock or their local town zoning administrator.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Upon-complaint (Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection.)

**Home kitchen rules**

<b>HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED</b>	Yes — Vermont Act 42 (2025) raised the cottage food operator exemption to \$30,000 gross annual receipts. Non-potentially hazardous foods only. Annual attestation plus food safety training required. Registration required. Direct sales to consumers only; no sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments.
<b>SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN</b>	No
<b>PET RESTRICTIONS</b>	No specific pet restriction in state cottage food rules.
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	No specific state cottage food water testing requirement for cottage food operators.
<b>HANDWASHING</b>	Food safety training covers hygiene; no specific standalone handwashing mandate.
<b>FOOD STORAGE</b>	Non-TCS, shelf-stable products required.

**Inspection & permitting**

<b>INSPECTION REQUIRED</b>	Upon-complaint — Vermont Department of Health may inspect upon complaint; no routine inspection.
<b>HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT</b>	Varies — Vermont municipalities (towns) control zoning. Windsor County operators should check with the Town of Woodstock or their local town zoning administrator.
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	Varies

**Customer-facing rules**

<b>ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP</b>	Conditional
<b>ON-SITE SIGNAGE</b>	Conditional
<b>DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES</b>	Direct sales to consumers only. No sales to restaurants or licensed food establishments. Farmers markets, home pickup, events permitted.
<b>MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME</b>	Not specified in state law.

## Relevant county code

Vermont municipalities control zoning; check Town of Woodstock or local town zoning bylaws.

### RESEARCH NOTES

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found for Windsor County. Vermont Act 42 (2025) raised the cap from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Windsor County is in southeastern Vermont; Woodstock is a well-known tourist destination. Vermont Department of Health (not Agency of Agriculture) administers the program.

### 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/windsor-county-discuss>

**Crosodo Index methodology:** The Crosodo Index is our internal 1–N ranking of U.S. counties by how friendly the combined state + county rules are for home-based cottage food bakers. Score components (higher = better): home kitchen allowed (30/15/5), no dedicated kitchen required (25), pets allowed (15), no home occupation permit (15), on-site pickup allowed (10), no inspection (10), no local business license (5), high data confidence (5), plus state tier bonus (Freedom +20, Great +15, Good +10, Okay +5). Data drawn from county zoning codes, health department rules, and state cottage food statutes (primarily the county\_cottage\_food\_zoning research set and state statutes CSV, last verified ~2026). Ranks are global across ~3,000 counties. Counties with sparse or missing data receive lower/default scores. This is a research and prioritization tool only — always verify current rules directly with your state department of agriculture/health and your county planning & health offices. The original U.S. Census population rank is retained in source data for reference but is no longer used for primary display or sorting in Crosodo materials.

## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Vermont cottage food rules, county zoning overlays, and what other home bakers are seeing in your area.

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