

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ocean County

New Jersey · Toms River · FIPS 34029 · Population 638,691 ·
Crosodo Index #2490*

STATE BASELINE

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.

STATE TIER

Poor

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

50000

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

Ocean County, New Jersey — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

50000

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under New Jersey cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ New Jersey home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[New Jersey label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

NEW JERSEY: OCEAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2490* · FIPS 34029 · Toms River

Ocean County

Population 638,691 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce only non-TCS foods on the state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager certificate required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (New Jersey requires local zoning board approval as a prerequisite step in the state permit application. Each of Ocean County's 33 municipalities has its own zoning board and home occupation provisions. Contact local municipal zoning office for specific requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No kitchen inspection required under NJ cottage food law)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must produce only non-TCS foods on the state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager certificate required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified
WATER SUPPLY	Proof of safe water required (water bill or well test) as part of state permit application
HANDWASHING	Implied by food safety requirements; food protection manager certification required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No kitchen inspection required under NJ cottage food law
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — New Jersey requires local zoning board approval as a prerequisite step in the state permit application. Each of Ocean County's 33 municipalities has its own zoning board and home occupation provisions. Contact local municipal zoning office for specific requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Allowed foods are on state-approved list only. Online sales and delivery permitted within NJ. No wholesale to stores or restaurants.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state law

Relevant county code

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11. Local zoning varies by municipality in Ocean County.

RESEARCH NOTES

Same state baseline as Monmouth County (NJ). Ocean County has 33 municipalities. State requirements: CFPM certification, local zoning board approval, approved foods list only, \$50,000 cap, \$100 fee, no pre-operational inspection. State does not preempt local ordinances. No county-specific cottage food pages found for Ocean County. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; Ocean County municipality-level zoning details not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.ocean.nj.us>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cottagefood/>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/cottage-food-operator/>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/ocean-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Ocean County	Monmouth County	Burlington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified	No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified	Not specified in state rule; standard food safety GMP applies.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Allowed foods are on state-approved list only. Online sales and delivery permitte...	Direct sales to consumers only. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Allowed foods are on state-approved list only. Online sales and delivery permitte...	Sales allowed from home, at farmers markets, and NJ events. Local health department approvals required for market/event sales. No sales out...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce only non-TCS foods on the state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager ...	Must produce only non-TCS (non-time/temperature control for safety) foods on the approved list. Must obtain local zoning board approval as ...	New Jersey requires a state Cottage Food Operator Permit (\$100 fee, valid 2 years) from NJ Department of Health. Applicant must: (1) first ...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage	Non-TCS shelf-stable food storage only. No TCS (refrigerated) foods permitted.
POPULATION	638,691	643,064	461,853

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

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

STATUTE

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

50000

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yes

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes

KITCHEN INSPECTION

No

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Cottage food products may only be delivered or relinquished at: the operator's home (not for onsite consumption), the consumer's NJ home, a NJ farmers market or other permitted NJ location. Products cannot be sold to wholesale establishments, retail food establishments, or shipped out of state. Online and phone order-taking is allowed as an ancillary activity, but physical delivery must occur in New Jersey person-to-person or at permitted locations. Charitable bake sales remain exempt under separate provisions.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [New Jersey cottage food law report](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/new-jersey.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phfpp/njac8_24.pdf

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/cottage-food-operator/>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/new-jersey/>

Questions about Ocean County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/ocean-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Ocean County, New Jersey. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/ocean-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

Ads are paid placements. Crosodo does not endorse listed vendors. Verify all information independently. · To advertise: crosodo.com/advertise