

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Union County

New Jersey · Elizabeth · FIPS 34039 · Population 572,079 ·
Crosodo Index #2492*

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

Union 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: UNION COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2492* · FIPS 34039 · Elizabeth

Union County

Population 572,079 · 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 state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required as prerequisite. \$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 prerequisite to state permit. Union County has 21 municipalities, each with its own zoning board. Contact local municipal zoning office.)

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 state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required as prerequisite. \$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)
HANDWASHING	Implied by food protection manager certification requirement
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 prerequisite to state permit. Union County has 21 municipalities, each with its own zoning board. Contact local municipal zoning office.
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. Approved foods list only. Online sales and delivery within NJ. No wholesale.
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 Union County.

RESEARCH NOTES

Same NJ state baseline as Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Union County is densely populated suburban county adjacent to NYC. 21 municipalities. State: CFPM certification, local zoning board approval, \$100 fee, \$50,000 cap, no pre-operational inspection, approved foods list. State does not preempt local zoning. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; Union County municipality-level zoning not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://ucnj.org>

<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/union-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Union County	Morris County	Hudson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
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; standard sanitation applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
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. Approved foods list only. Online sales and delivery within NJ. No wholesale.	Direct sales to consumers only. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Approved foods list only. Online sales and delivery within NJ. No wholesale.	Direct-to-consumer only. Online orders with in-person delivery. No mail/carrier. No wholesale. \$50,000 annual cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Must produce only non-TCS foods on state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required as prerequisite. \$100 permit fee. Food protect...	Must produce only non-TCS foods on state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager cert...	Must be operator's private home kitchen. State permit required (\$100, 2-year). Food Protection Manager certification required. Local zoning...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage	Standard food storage per N.J.A.C. 8:24-11
POPULATION	572,079	508,816	712,029

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

Union 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 Union 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/union-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 Union 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/union-county-discuss

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