

## COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

# Can I sell from my kitchen in Cape May County, New Jersey?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-05.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

**Yes**

HOME OCCUPATION

**Yes**

BUSINESS LICENSE

**Varies**

SALES CAP

**\$50,000 / year**

NEW JERSEY RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[New Jersey permits PDF](#)

[New Jersey cottage food law page](#)

[New Jersey Department of Health cottage food program](#)

[Statute: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.](#)

**NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Cape May County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

## What you need

Cape May County, New Jersey. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

**Yes**

ANNUAL SALES CAP

**\$50,000 / year**

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

**Yes**

LOCAL HEALTH

**Upon-complaint**

BUSINESS LICENSE

**Varies**

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

**Yes**

### HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

### CONTINUE ONLINE

**New Jersey permits PDF →**

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/new-jersey.pdf>

**New Jersey cottage food law page →**

<https://crosodo.com/states/new-jersey>

**Permit page for this place →**

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/new-jersey/cape-may-county>

**Cape May County cottage food law page →**

<https://crosodo.com/states/new-jersey/cape-may-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

## Where to file

### State

New Jersey registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: 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.

New Jersey permits PDF: [crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/new-jersey.pdf](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/new-jersey.pdf)

State law page: [crosodo.com/states/new-jersey](https://crosodo.com/states/new-jersey)

New Jersey Department of Health: <https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/phfpp/cottage-food-operator/>

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

### Zoning / home occupation

Yes. New Jersey law (§8:24-11.1(e)) REQUIRES operators to obtain local zoning board confirmation that cottage food operations are allowed in their residential zone BEFORE applying for state permit. If local zoning board does not allow cottage food businesses, the operator is not eligible for a state permit. Cape May County municipalities vary in their zoning; operators must contact their local (municipal) zoning board first. This is a critical gating requirement unique to New Jersey.

### Health

Upon-complaint. Health authority may enter premises if there is a complaint or suspected foodborne illness; no routine inspection (§8:24-11.2).

### Business license

Varies

### Pickup / delivery

Sales allowed at operator's home (no on-site consumption), consumer's NJ home, NJ farmers markets, NJ farm stands, NJ temporary retail food establishments, and other NJ delivery locations per N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.3. No US mail or common carrier delivery (except certain conditions). No out-of-state sales. Additional local health dept approvals needed for farmers market events.

**If you rent a commissary kitchen**

**Local health departments license retail food.** New Jersey cottage food is a state permit for home kitchens. A commissary or restaurant is a retail food establishment licensed by the local health department. Wholesale is a separate CEOHS license.

Official source: [NJ local health departments](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.capemaycountynj.gov>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

---

**SOURCES**

<https://www.capemaycountynj.gov>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cottagefood/rules-resources/rules>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cottagefood/apply-renew>

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

[https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phfpp/njac8\\_24.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phfpp/njac8_24.pdf)

## Cape May County and nearby places

| Regulation                 | Cape May County                                                                                                                                 | Cumberland County                                                                                                                              | Atlantic County                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | No specific restriction stated in N.J.A.C. 8:24-11, but kitchen must meet cleanliness standards.                                                | Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.                                                     | Not specified in state rules, but home kitchen must be sanitary                                                                                 |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | No                                                                                                                                             | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Sales allowed at operator's home (no on-site consumption), consumer's NJ home, NJ farmers markets, NJ farm stands, NJ temporary retail food...  | Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale to food establishments. No out-of-state sales. NJ residents only.                                  | Direct-to-consumer sales allowed; may sell at NJ farmers markets and events (local health dept approval also required); no wholesale to ret...  |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | New Jersey cottage food requires a state Cottage Food Operator Permit (N.J.A.C. 8:24-11): \$100 fee, valid 2 years. Must hold a Food Protect... | New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements include: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitt... | Must obtain NJ DOH Cottage Food Operator permit (\$100 fee, 2-year validity). Must first obtain local zoning approval confirming home-based ... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS (non-temperature-control-for-safety) foods only. Wholesale to food establishments prohibited.                                           | Non-TCS foods only. No wholesale sales. Annual gross sales may not exceed \$50,000.                                                            | Standard non-TCS food storage; products must remain shelf-stable                                                                                |
| POPULATION                 | 95,456                                                                                                                                          | 153,588                                                                                                                                        | 274,339                                                                                                                                         |

## More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

New Jersey permits PDF: [crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/new-jersey.pdf](https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/new-jersey.pdf)

New Jersey cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/new-jersey](https://crosodo.com/states/new-jersey)

Cape May County cottage food law: [crosodo.com/states/new-jersey/cape-may-county](https://crosodo.com/states/new-jersey/cape-may-county)