

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Mercer County, New Jersey?

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

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

HOME OCCUPATION

Conditional

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 Mercer County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Mercer 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

Conditional

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/mercer-county>

Mercer County cottage food law page →

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

State law page: 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

Conditional. NJ state permit process requires applicant to first confirm local zoning allows cottage food business. Mercer County municipalities (Trenton, Princeton, Hamilton Township, etc.) have their own zoning ordinances. Contact local zoning board before applying to state.

Health

Upon-complaint. Health authority may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness; no routine inspection.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

Sales from home, at NJ farmers markets and events (with local health dept approvals). No wholesale. No sales outside NJ.

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.mercercounty.org>

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.mercercounty.org>

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

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

Mercer County and nearby places

Regulation	Mercer County	Somerset County	Burlington County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state rule; standard food safety GMP applies.	Pets excluded from production area during food preparation	Not specified in state rule; standard food safety GMP applies.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	No	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales from home, at NJ farmers markets and events (with local health dept approvals). No wholesale. No sales outside NJ.	Direct to consumer only; no sales to retailers or restaurants; farmers markets and events allowed	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	Conditional	Varies	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	New Jersey requires a state Cottage Food Operator Permit (\$100 fee, valid 2 years) from NJ Department of Health. Requirements: (1) local zo...	Registration with NJ Dept of Health required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer only (no reta...	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 food storage only.	Non-TCS foods stored appropriately	Non-TCS shelf-stable food storage only. No TCS (refrigerated) foods permitted.
POPULATION	383,732	344,978	461,853

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

New Jersey cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/new-jersey

Mercer County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/new-jersey/mercerc-county