

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Bergen County

New Jersey · Hackensack · FIPS 34003 · Population 953,243
· Crosodo Index #2420*

STATE BASELINE

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. (adopted Oct. 4, 2021); annual cap \$50,000

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.

NEW JERSEY: BERGEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2420* · FIPS 34003 · Hackensack

Bergen County

Population 953,243 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. (adopted Oct. 4, 2021); annual cap \$50,000 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must be operator’s private home kitchen. Production must not occur in a rented or commercial kitchen. State permit (\$100, 2-year) required before selling.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (NJ state law requires local zoning board approval confirming that the residential use for a cottage food operation is permitted before the state permit application is submitted. Each municipality in Bergen County has its own zoning board (Bergen County has 70 municipalities). Contact the applicable municipal zoning board for approval. State permit: \$100 via NJ Dept. of Health, valid 2 years. Local ordinances are not preempted under NJ law.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No home kitchen inspection required. Health authority may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must be operator’s private home kitchen. Production must not occur in a rented or commercial kitchen. State permit (\$100, 2-year) required before selling.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Proof of potable water required: water bill for municipal supply, or well test results for private well
HANDWASHING	Standard sanitation required; Food Protection Manager certification implies knowledge of proper handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices per N.J.A.C. 8:24-11

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No home kitchen inspection required. Health authority may inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — NJ state law requires local zoning board approval confirming that the residential use for a cottage food operation is permitted before the state permit application is submitted. Each municipality in Bergen County has its own zoning board (Bergen County has 70 municipalities). Contact the applicable municipal zoning board for approval. State permit: \$100 via NJ Dept. of Health, valid 2 years. Local ordinances are not preempted under NJ law.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online orders allowed but delivery must be in-person (no mail or third-party carrier). Sales may occur at home, farmers markets, farm stands, and direct-to-consumer events. No wholesale to restaurants or grocery stores. \$50,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11; municipal zoning ordinances vary by municipality

RESEARCH NOTES

NJ cottage food law requires local zoning board approval as a prerequisite to the state permit application. Bergen County has 70 separate municipalities each with their own zoning boards — rules vary significantly. No specific Bergen County-level ordinance was found superseding or modifying the state framework. The state permit is \$100 for 2 years, requires Food Protection Manager certification (not just a food handler card), proof of potable water, and approved foods from the NJ approved list. Local ordinances are not preempted. New Jersey was the last state to legalize cottage food (2021). Applications take 12-16 weeks for review.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/new-jersey/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/bergen-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Bergen County	Essex County	Hudson County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state rules; standard sanitation applies	Not specified; standard sanitation applies	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-to-consumer sales only. Online orders allowed but delivery must be in-person (no mail or third-party carrier). Sales may occur at ho...	Direct-to-consumer only. Online orders allowed with in-person delivery. No mail/carrier delivery. No wholesale. \$50,000 annual cap.	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 be operator's private home kitchen. Production must not occur in a rented or commercial kitchen. State permit (\$100, 2-year) required ...	Must be operator's private home kitchen. State permit required (\$100, 2-year). Food Protection Manager certification required. Local zoning...	Must be operator's private home kitchen. State permit required (\$100, 2-year). Food Protection Manager certification required. Local zoning...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage practices per N.J.A.C. 8:24-11	Standard food storage per N.J.A.C. 8:24-11	Standard food storage per N.J.A.C. 8:24-11
POPULATION	953,243	853,374	712,029

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

Bergen 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](#).

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?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Bergen County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/bergen-county-discuss>
