

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Cumberland County

New Jersey · Bridgeton · FIPS 34011 · Population 153,588 ·
Crosodo Index #2816*

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.

NEW JERSEY: CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2816* · FIPS 34011 · Bridgeton

Cumberland County

Population 153,588 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements include: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted; (2) Food Protection Manager Certification (CFPM-level); (3) proof of water potability (well water test or utility bill); (4) \$100 permit fee valid for 2 years. Application review takes 12-16 weeks. Annual sales cap \$50,000. Allowed: non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, dried goods, jams/jellies, nut butters, granola, honey, nuts, vinegar, mustard, and other non-TCS foods upon written application.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (New Jersey requires local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted as part of the cottage food permit application. Cumberland County municipalities must provide this approval. This is a unique NJ requirement for cottage food operations specifically.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (Home kitchens not routinely inspected; health authority may enter if there is a complaint or suspected foodborne illness.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements include: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted; (2) Food Protection Manager Certification (CFPM-level); (3) proof of water potability (well water test or utility bill); (4) \$100 permit fee valid for 2 years. Application review takes 12-16 weeks. Annual sales cap \$50,000. Allowed: non-TCS foods including baked goods, candy, dried goods, jams/jellies, nut butters, granola, honey, nuts, vinegar, mustard, and other non-TCS foods upon written application.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.

WATER SUPPLY

Proof of water potability required: well water test or utility bill. Private well water testing required.

HANDWASHING

Adequate handwashing required per NJ cottage food permit standards.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS foods only. No wholesale sales. Annual gross sales may not exceed \$50,000.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED

No — Home kitchens not routinely inspected; health authority may enter if there is a complaint or suspected foodborne illness.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT

Yes — New Jersey requires local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted as part of the cottage food permit application. Cumberland County municipalities must provide this approval. This is a unique NJ requirement for cottage food operations specifically.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale to food establishments. No out-of-state sales. NJ residents only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employees may assist with cottage food production.

Relevant county code

Cumberland County municipal zoning ordinances; N.J.A.C. 8:24-11

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. New Jersey was one of the last states to legalize cottage food (2021). Restrictive requirements include CFPM-level certification, 12-16 week application review, local zoning board approval required. No Cumberland County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cumberlandcounty.gov>

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

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Cumberland County	Atlantic County	Cape May County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	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	No specific restriction stated in N.J.A.C. 8:24-11, but kitchen must meet cleanliness standards.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	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...	Sales allowed at operator's home (no on-site consumption), consumer's NJ home, NJ farmers markets, NJ farm stands, NJ temporary retail food...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements include: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permiss...	Must obtain NJ DOH Cottage Food Operator permit (\$100 fee, 2-year validity). Must first obtain local zoning approval confirming home-based ...	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...
FOOD STORAGE	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	Non-TCS (non-temperature-control-for-safety) foods only. Wholesale to food establishments prohibited.
POPULATION	153,588	274,339	95,456

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

Cumberland 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 Cumberland County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

Classifieds

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

NATIONAL

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LOCAL

Advertise here

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

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Your business here

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

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

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