

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Middlesex County

New Jersey · New Brunswick · FIPS 34023 · Population
860,147 · Crosodo Index #2429*

STATE BASELINE

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. (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: MIDDLESEX COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2429* · FIPS 34023 · New Brunswick

Middlesex County

Population 860,147 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. (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. State permit required (\$100, 2-year). Food Protection Manager certification required. Local zoning board approval required before state permit application.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified; standard sanitation applies

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted is required before the state permit application. Middlesex County has 25 municipalities each with their own zoning codes. Contact the applicable municipal zoning board. No county-level override of state framework found.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Health authority may inspect upon complaint.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Must be operator’s private home kitchen. State permit required (\$100, 2-year). Food Protection Manager certification required. Local zoning board approval required before state permit application.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified; standard sanitation applies
WATER SUPPLY	Water bill (municipal) or well test results (private well) required as part of permit application
HANDWASHING	Food Protection Manager certification (CFPM-level) required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per N.J.A.C. 8:24-11

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. Health authority may inspect upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted is required before the state permit application. Middlesex County has 25 municipalities each with their own zoning codes. Contact the applicable municipal zoning board. No county-level override of state framework found.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only. Online orders allowed but delivery must be in-person (no mail/carrier). Sales at home, farmers markets, events. No wholesale. \$50,000 annual cap.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11; municipal zoning codes vary

RESEARCH NOTES

Middlesex County follows NJ state baseline. No Middlesex County-specific modification of state cottage food rules found. The requirement for local zoning board approval means individual municipal rules within the county are critical. Middlesex County includes diverse municipalities including New Brunswick, Edison, Piscataway, and others.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.middlesexcountynj.gov>

<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/middlesex-county-discuss>

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

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

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