

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Ocean County

New Jersey · Toms River · FIPS 34029 · Population 638,691 ·
Crosodo Index #2490*

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: OCEAN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2490* · FIPS 34029 · Toms River

Ocean County

Population 638,691 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY**

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Must produce only non-TCS foods on the state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager certificate required.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (New Jersey requires local zoning board approval as a prerequisite step in the state permit application. Each of Ocean County's 33 municipalities has its own zoning board and home occupation provisions. Contact local municipal zoning office for specific requirements.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No kitchen inspection required under NJ cottage food law)

Home kitchen rules

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes — Must produce only non-TCS foods on the state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager certificate required. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No |
| PET RESTRICTIONS | No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified |
| WATER SUPPLY | Proof of safe water required (water bill or well test) as part of state permit application |
| HANDWASHING | Implied by food safety requirements; food protection manager certification required |
| FOOD STORAGE | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage |

Inspection & permitting

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED | No — No kitchen inspection required under NJ cottage food law |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Yes — New Jersey requires local zoning board approval as a prerequisite step in the state permit application. Each of Ocean County's 33 municipalities has its own zoning board and home occupation provisions. Contact local municipal zoning office for specific requirements. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies |

Customer-facing rules

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE | Conditional |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct sales to consumers only. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Allowed foods are on state-approved list only. Online sales and delivery permitted within NJ. No wholesale to stores or restaurants. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME | Not specified in state law |

Relevant county code

N.J.A.C. 8:24-11. Local zoning varies by municipality in Ocean County.

RESEARCH NOTES

Same state baseline as Monmouth County (NJ). Ocean County has 33 municipalities. State requirements: CFPM certification, local zoning board approval, approved foods list only, \$50,000 cap, \$100 fee, no pre-operational inspection. State does not preempt local ordinances. No county-specific cottage food pages found for Ocean County. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; Ocean County municipality-level zoning details not retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

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

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

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

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

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

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