

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Salem County

New Jersey · Salem · FIPS 34033 · Population 64,840 ·
Crosodo Index #2401*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE
N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.	Poor	50000	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: SALEM COUNTY

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Salem County

Population 64,840 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (NJ cottage food program requires: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use permitted; (2) Food Protection Manager Certification (CFPM-level, not just food handler); (3) proof of water potability (well test or utility bill); (4) \$100 permit fee valid 2 years. Application review takes 12-16 weeks. Annual sales cap \$50,000.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific prohibition stated; kitchen inspection may assess condition

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted is REQUIRED before obtaining NJ cottage food permit. Salem County municipalities each have zoning boards. Contact Salem County Department of Planning & Community Development at (856) 935-7510 ext. 8491.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection; health authority may enter upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — NJ cottage food program requires: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use permitted; (2) Food Protection Manager Certification (CFPM-level, not just food handler); (3) proof of water potability (well test or utility bill); (4) \$100 permit fee valid 2 years. Application review takes 12-16 weeks. Annual sales cap \$50,000.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific prohibition stated; kitchen inspection may assess condition
WATER SUPPLY	Proof of water potability required (well water test or utility bill). Salem County has many rural areas with private wells.
HANDWASHING	Handwashing facilities assessed during permit process
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; \$50,000 annual cap applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection; health authority may enter upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted is REQUIRED before obtaining NJ cottage food permit. Salem County municipalities each have zoning boards. Contact Salem County Department of Planning & Community Development at (856) 935-7510 ext. 8491.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct sales to consumers only; no wholesale or retail. No internet/mail order outside direct consumer transactions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No specific limit stated

Relevant county code

Local municipality zoning ordinance for residential use confirmation

RESEARCH NOTES

New Jersey has one of the most burdensome cottage food frameworks: CFPM cert (not just food handler), local zoning board approval required, \$100 biennial permit, 12-16 week review, \$50,000 cap, no wholesale. Salem County is southern NJ agricultural county. Local zoning board approval is a hard prerequisite unique to NJ. No Salem County-specific overrides found beyond statewide requirements. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<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/salem-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Salem County	Cumberland County	Gloucester County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific prohibition stated; kitchen inspection may assess condition	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas per NJ cottage food permit requirements.	Pets excluded from production area
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct sales to consumers only; no wholesale or retail. No internet/mail order outside direct consumer transactions.	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale to food establishments. No out-of-state sales. NJ residents only.	Direct to consumer only; no retail or wholesale; farmers markets and events allowed
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	NJ cottage food program requires: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use permitted; (2) Food Protection Manager Certifi...	New Jersey cottage food program is restrictive. Requirements include: (1) local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitt...	Registration with NJ Dept of Health required; \$50,000 annual cap; food handler cert required; direct to consumer only; non-TCS foods only
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only; \$50,000 annual cap applies	Non-TCS foods only. No wholesale sales. Annual gross sales may not exceed \$50,000.	Non-TCS foods stored appropriately
POPULATION	64,840	153,588	302,621

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

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

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