

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Somerset County

New Jersey · Somerville · FIPS 34035 · Population 344,978 ·  
Crosodo Index #2439\*

## STATE BASELINE

**N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.; cottage food operator registration required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler certificate required; direct sales only**

| STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Poor       | 50000                    | MEDIUM     | 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.

## How to start — 60-second path

Somerset County, New Jersey — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

STATE SALES CAP

**50000**

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Varies**

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Yes**

INSPECTION

**No**

PETS

**Pets excluded from production area during food preparation**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under New Jersey cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

### LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ New Jersey home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[New Jersey label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

## NEW JERSEY: SOMERSET COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2439\* · FIPS 34035 · Somerville

## Somerset County

Population 344,978 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.; cottage food operator registration required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler certificate required; direct sales only · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Registration with NJ Dept of Health required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer only (no retail/wholesale); non-TCS foods only)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Pets excluded from production area during food preparation

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Varies (NJ cottage food law does not preempt local ordinances. Somerset County municipalities (Somerville, Bridgewater, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements under local zoning; operator should verify with local municipality)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Yes

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

No (No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible)

### Home kitchen rules

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Registration with NJ Dept of Health required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer only (no retail/wholesale); non-TCS foods only |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Pets excluded from production area during food preparation                                                                                                                          |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Potable water supply required                                                                                                                                                       |
| HANDWASHING                | Proper handwashing facilities required                                                                                                                                              |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS foods stored appropriately                                                                                                                                                  |

### Inspection & permitting

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | No — No routine inspection; complaint-based investigation possible                                                                                                                                                                             |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Varies — NJ cottage food law does not preempt local ordinances. Somerset County municipalities (Somerville, Bridgewater, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements under local zoning; operator should verify with local municipality |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

### Customer-facing rules

|                         |                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Yes                                                                                               |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                       |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Direct to consumer only; no sales to retailers or restaurants; farmers markets and events allowed |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified                                                                                     |

**Relevant county code**

Not identified

**RESEARCH NOTES**

NJ rated 'Poor' — restrictive state law with \$50,000 cap and direct sales only. No Somerset County-specific ordinance found. County has no dedicated cottage food page. Pattern-status county.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.somersetcounty.gov>

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

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/somerset-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/somerset-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Somerset County                                                                                                                                 | Mercer County                                                                                                                                   | Morris County                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                              |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Pets excluded from production area during food preparation                                                                                      | Not specified in state rule; standard food safety GMP applies.                                                                                  | No specific state cottage food pet restriction specified                                                                                        |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | No                                                                                                                                              | Upon-complaint                                                                                                                                  | No                                                                                                                                              |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Direct to consumer only; no sales to retailers or restaurants; farmers markets and events allowed                                               | Sales from home, at NJ farmers markets and events (with local health dept approvals). No wholesale. No sales outside NJ.                        | Direct sales to consumers only. \$50,000 annual sales cap. Approved foods list only. Online sales and delivery within NJ. No wholesale.         |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Conditional                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                             |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          | Varies                                                                                                                                          |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Registration with NJ Dept of Health required; \$50,000 annual sales cap; food handler certificate required; direct to consumer only (no reta... | New Jersey requires a state Cottage Food Operator Permit (\$100 fee, valid 2 years) from NJ Department of Health. Requirements: (1) local zo... | Must produce only non-TCS foods on state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required. \$100 permit fee. Food protection manager cert... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Non-TCS foods stored appropriately                                                                                                              | Non-TCS shelf-stable food storage only.                                                                                                         | Non-TCS shelf-stable foods; standard kitchen storage                                                                                            |
| POPULATION                 | 344,978                                                                                                                                         | 383,732                                                                                                                                         | 508,816                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — New Jersey cottage food law

Somerset 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](#) on Crosodo, or open the live guide: [crosodo.com/states/new-jersey](https://crosodo.com/states/new-jersey).

### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: [https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phfpp/njac8\\_24.pdf](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 about Somerset County?** Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

[crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/somerset-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/somerset-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

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

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### Your business here

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

[crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/somerset-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/new-jersey/somerset-county-discuss)

#### Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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