

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Union County

New Jersey · Elizabeth · FIPS 34039 · Population 572,079 ·  
Crosodo Index #2492\*

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: UNION COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2492\* · FIPS 34039 · Elizabeth

# Union County

Population 572,079 · 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 state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required as prerequisite. \$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 prerequisite to state permit. Union County has 21 municipalities, each with its own zoning board. Contact local municipal zoning office.)

### 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 state-approved list. Local zoning board approval required as prerequisite. \$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)
HANDWASHING	Implied by food protection manager certification requirement
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 prerequisite to state permit. Union County has 21 municipalities, each with its own zoning board. Contact local municipal zoning office.
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. Approved foods list only. Online sales and delivery within NJ. No wholesale.
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 Union County.

### RESEARCH NOTES

Same NJ state baseline as Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Union County is densely populated suburban county adjacent to NYC. 21 municipalities. State: CFPM certification, local zoning board approval, \$100 fee, \$50,000 cap, no pre-operational inspection, approved foods list. State does not preempt local zoning. Confidence medium: state law confirmed; Union County municipality-level zoning not retrieved.

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### SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://ucnj.org>

<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/union-county-discuss>

## State context — New Jersey cottage food law

Union 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.

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<b>STATUTE</b> N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq.	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> 50000
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> No	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> 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.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [New Jersey cottage food law report](#).

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### 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/>

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# Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Union County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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

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