

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Warren County

New Jersey · Belvidere · FIPS 34041 · Population 109,739 ·
Crosodo Index #2807*

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: WARREN COUNTY

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Warren County

Population 109,739 · State baseline: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11 et seq. · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (New Jersey requires a Cottage Food Operator Permit from the NJ Department of Health. Only non-TCS foods are permitted. Annual gross sales cap of \$50,000. Operator must hold Food Protection Manager Certification. Private well water requires potability test. Local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted is required before a permit is issued.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production per standard NJ food safety requirements.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (NJ requires local zoning board approval confirming that operating a cottage food business from the residence is permitted under local zoning before the state permit is issued. Warren County municipalities each have their own zoning ordinances. Warren County does not have a county-level home occupation permit; operators must check with their specific municipality.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Health authority may enter and inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness. No routine pre-operational kitchen inspection required, but the permit application process includes review of zoning approval and water potability.)

Home kitchen rules**HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED**

Yes — New Jersey requires a Cottage Food Operator Permit from the NJ Department of Health. Only non-TCS foods are permitted. Annual gross sales cap of \$50,000. Operator must hold Food Protection Manager Certification. Private well water requires potability test. Local zoning board approval confirming residential use is permitted is required before a permit is issued.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production per standard NJ food safety requirements.

WATER SUPPLY

Private well water requires a potability test submitted with the permit application. Public water supply utility bill acceptable.

HANDWASHING

Standard handwashing facilities required per NJ food safety rules.

FOOD STORAGE

All ingredients and finished products must be stored properly to prevent contamination; non-TCS foods only.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Health authority may enter and inspect upon complaint or suspected foodborne illness. No routine pre-operational kitchen inspection required, but the permit application process includes review of zoning approval and water potability.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — NJ requires local zoning board approval confirming that operating a cottage food business from the residence is permitted under local zoning before the state permit is issued. Warren County municipalities each have their own zoning ordinances. Warren County does not have a county-level home occupation permit; operators must check with their specific municipality.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No wholesale to food establishments. Online orders and in-state delivery permitted. On-site pickup subject to local zoning.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state statute; cottage food is a personal residential operation.

Relevant county code

No specific Warren County code section identified for cottage food. State law governs: N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.

RESEARCH NOTES

Warren County has no county URLs in the input and no specific cottage food overrides were found. State baseline governs. NJ is among the last states to legalize cottage food (2021). Key requirements: NJ CFO Permit (\$100, 2-year), Food Protection Manager Certification (not just food handler), local zoning board approval, \$50,000 annual sales cap, non-TCS foods only. Application review takes 12-16 weeks. No county-specific rules found. Confidence medium because local zoning verification requires checking each municipality within Warren County.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

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

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cottagefood/rules-resources/faq/>

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

State context — New Jersey cottage food law

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

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