

# NEW JERSEY DISPENSARY LICENSING GUIDE 2025

Your Step-by-Step Roadmap to Opening a Legal Cannabis Retail Store



## Legal Status Overview

- Medical Marijuana Legalized: 2010
- Recreational Marijuana Legalized: 2020 (via Ballot Question 1)
- Recreational Sales Began: April 21, 2022
- Oversight Authority: New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (NJ-CRC)
- 2024 Sales Milestone: Over \$1 billion in combined medical and adult-use sales

## License Types in Nevada

### 1. Licenses are issued for different roles in the cannabis supply chain

- **Dispensary License:** Retail sales to adults 21+
- **Cultivation License:** Commercial growing and packaging
- **Production License:** Manufacturing cannabis products
- **Distribution License:** Transportation between facilities
- **Testing Laboratory License:** Product safety and potency testing

## New Jersey Cannabis License Types

- Class 1 – Cultivator: Grows cannabis plants
- Class 2 – Manufacturer: Produces edibles, concentrates, and topicals
- Class 3 – Wholesaler: Buys and sells cannabis in bulk
- Class 4 – Distributor: Transports cannabis between licensees
- Class 5 – Retailer: Operates a dispensary and sells directly to consumers
- Class 6 – Delivery: Delivers cannabis products to customers

## How to Apply for a Class 5 Dispensary License

### 1. Step 1: Verify Eligibility

- Residency Requirement: At least one owner must have lived in NJ for 2+ years
- Business Registration: Must be registered with NJ’s Division of Revenue and have tax IDs

### 2. Step 2: Choose a License Type

- Conditional License: Temporary—gives you 120 days to finalize location and municipal approval
- Annual License: Requires complete documentation at time of application

### 3. Step 3: Secure a Physical Location

- Comply with municipal zoning and distance requirements
- Provide proof of ownership or lease
- If leasing, get landlord’s written consent for cannabis use

### 4. Step 4: Obtain Municipal Approval

- Engage Local Authorities early
- Zoning compliance
- Local licensing (if applicable)
- Community impact plan

### 5. Step 5: Prepare & Submit Application

- Business plan and operations profile
- Regulatory compliance and security plan
- Insurance coverage documentation
- Owner/employee background disclosures

Application Type	Processing Time
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Conditional	7–12 weeks
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Annual	15–28 weeks
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License Type	Submission Fee	Approval Fee	First-Year Licensing Fee
Standard	\$200	\$800	\$9,000 (after credits)
Microbusiness	\$100	\$400	Reduced Fee

