

Start a Business Checklist

For assistance on these steps, see our [Starting Your Own Business: Step-By-Step Guide](#)

1. Research
2. Create a business plan and timeline
3. Get finances in order
4. Choose business structure
5. Register business name (and/or domain name)
6. Set up bank account & payment processing
7. Red tape: Licenses, permits insurance
8. Location / store front
9. Hiring
10. Promotion / Marketing

_____ 1, Do market research

- Validate demand for your product by using the tips outlined in our article: [How to Test Demand For Your New Business Idea](#)

_____ 2. Create a plan

- Use our [one-page template](#) here.
- For more guidance, see Step #3 in our [Start Your Own Business Guide](#)

___ 3. Get finances in order

- Create a budget For assistance see: [How to Build and Use a Business Budget That's Useful All Year Long](#)
- If you need financing, determine where you will get it from. We've prepared these resources for you:

[How to Run a Successful Crowdfunding Campaign](#)

[Small Business Financing: What Options Are Available For Your Business?](#)

[Most Useful Small Business Associations: Find Grants, Free Training, and More](#)

[Small Business Financing: The Definitive Guide](#)

[Grow Your Business: 32 Small Business Grants and How to Apply For Them](#)

[The Veteran Small Business and Startup Funding Guide](#)

___ 4. Choose business structure

- See: [Business Structures: Which is Right For Your Startup?](#)

___ 5. Register business name (and/or domain name)

- See Steps #6 and #7 in our [Start Your Own Business Guide](#)

___ 6. Set up business bank account (and payment processing if needed)

- See Steps #8 and #10 in our [Start Your Own Business Guide](#)

___ 7. Red tape: Licenses, permits, insurance

- See Step #9 in our [Start Your Own Business Guide](#)

___ 8. Location/storefront (for brick & mortar businesses)

___ 9. Hiring

- See: [How to Outsource Boring Work Without Sacrificing Quality](#)
- And: [How to Hire a Professional Content Marketer For Your Business](#)

___ 10. Create a Promotion/Marketing Plan

Consult these resources for assistance and ideas:

- [How Email Marketing Software Can Help Grow Your Business](#)
- [How to Use Facebook Marketing For Your Small Business](#)
- If you're planning a B2B business, you'll find the following helpful:
[How Your Small Business Can Sell to Big Companies](#)