

1. Choose Your Business Structure

- Sole Proprietorship
- Partnership
- Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- Corporation (S-Corp or C-Corp)
- Nonprofit Organization

2. Pick Your Business Name

- Ensure the name complies with state naming rules.
- Check availability using the state business name database.
- Reserve your business name (if applicable).

3. Register With the State

- File necessary documents:
 - Articles of Incorporation (for corporations).
 - Articles of Organization (for LLCs).
- Pay state registration fees.

4. Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN)

- Apply for an EIN from the IRS (free on the IRS website).

5. Secure Required Permits and Licenses

- Research local and state-level requirements for:
 - Professional licenses (e.g., for medical or legal professions).
 - Industry-specific permits (e.g., health permits for restaurants).

- Apply for and renew all required licenses.

6. Register for State Taxes

- Register with your state Department of Revenue for:
 - Sales tax.
 - State income tax.
 - Unemployment insurance tax.
- Familiarize yourself with nexus laws if operating in multiple states.

7. Open a Business Bank Account

- Use your EIN to open a separate account for business finances.

8. File for Additional Protections (Optional)

- Apply for a trademark to protect your business name/logo nationally.
- File for a DBA (Doing Business As) if operating under a different name.

9. Stay Compliant

- File annual or biennial reports as required by your state.
- Maintain up-to-date records of all registrations and licenses.
- Renew any state-specific certifications or permits.

10. Consult Professionals

- Hire a lawyer or business advisor for state-specific guidance.
- Partner with tax professionals to ensure compliance.