

---

**Art Gallery**  
**Artists' Living/Working Space**  
**Auto Repair/Auto Body Shop**  
**Barber Shop**  
**Beauty Salon**  
**Catering**  
**Child Care**  
**Cleaning Service/Sewing Shop/  
Shoe Repair Shop**  
**Dry Cleaner**  
**Flower Shop**  
**Home-Based Business**  
**Home Improvement**  
**Interior Decorator**  
**Landscaper**  
**Laundromat**  
**Livery**  
**Retail Store**  
**Small Grocery Store**  
**Small Restaurant**  
**Tour Operator (Land/Water)**  
**TV/Radio Repair Shop**

# **Navigating** T H R O U G H **Regulations & Licensing Requirements**

A Guide for

**NEW BEDFORD**

Entrepreneurs

**Alexander Kell & Lincoln Rathnam**  
Research Associates

**Alla Yakovlev**  
Project Manager

# Table of Contents

---

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Acknowledgements .....   | 3   |
| Introduction .....   | 4   |
| Art Gallery .....  | 5   |
| Artists' Living/Working Space .....                                  | 10  |
| Auto Repair/Auto Body Shop .....                                     | 15  |
| Barber Shop.....   | 22  |
| Beauty Salon .....   | 28  |
| Catering .....   | 34  |
| Child Care .....   | 39  |
| Cleaning Service/Sewing Shop/Shoe Repair Shop.....                   | 47  |
| Dry Cleaner .....  | 52  |
| Flower Shop .....  | 58  |
| Home-Based Business.....   | 64  |
| Home Improvement Contractor .....                                    | 70  |
| Interior Decorator.....  | 76  |
| Landscaper .....   | 81  |
| Laundromat .....   | 86  |
| Livery.....  | 92  |
| Retail Store.....  | 99  |
| Small Grocery Store.....   | 105 |
| Small Restaurant .....   | 111 |
| Tour Operator (Land, Water, or Both).....                            | 116 |
| TV/Radio Repair .....  | 122 |
| Appendix I. Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer .....   | 127 |
| Appendix II. Important Resources for New Bedford Entrepreneurs ..... | 129 |

# Acknowledgements

---

We would like to thank the following people and their colleagues for being instrumental in compilation of the New Bedford guide and providing helpful advice regarding its contents and design.

Also, thanks to Mayor Scott W. Lang and the New Bedford Economic Development Council, whose assistance with this project made it possible.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Stephen Adams        | Office of Advocacy<br>US Small Business Advocate  |
| Melinda Ailes        | Senior Management Counselor<br>MA Small Business Development Center                             |
| Jim Berube           | Building Inspector, Building Division of ISD  |
| Joyce Goodman        | Senior Business Development Specialist, New<br>Bedford Economic Development Council             |
| Nick Nanopoulos      | Director of Licensing Board   |
| Dr. Stephen Nemmers  | Deputy Director For Policy and Planning,<br>Massachusetts Division of Professional<br>Licensure |
| Joseph P. Lopes      | Development Officer, New Bedford Economic<br>Development Council                                |
| Matthew A. Morrissey | Executive Director, New Bedford Economic<br>Development Council                                 |
| Danny Romanowicz     | Department of Building Commissioner   |
| Bill Sirull          | Chief, Enforcement Support Branch,<br>Business Compliance Division, DEP                         |
| George Weber         | Director, Massachusetts Division of<br>Professional Licensure                                   |
| Philip Weinberg      | Massachusetts Department of Environmental<br>Protection   |

# Introduction

---

*Navigating through Regulations and Licensing Requirements: A Guide for Entrepreneurs in New Bedford in Twenty One Occupations* is designed to guide New Bedford's aspiring entrepreneurs through the municipal, state and federal regulations surrounding the opening of a small business. In addition to entrepreneurs, this publication can be of use to both public and private business assistance practitioners, as well as small business development and regulatory policy research organizations.

This guide provides step-by-step instructions for starting twenty one different types of businesses in New Bedford. For each business type, there is a general checklist, followed by detailed explanations on how to meet local, state, and federal requirements. In addition to licenses and permits, this guide considers business plans, zoning, all levels of taxes, and insurance.

There are also two useful appendices:

- **Appendix 1** explains the regulations and tax requirements for hiring employees.
- **Appendix 2** lists organizations and city departments that offer legal advice, accounting, financial, and other services to entrepreneurs.

Further business information can be obtained from the New Bedford Economic Development Council, a “one-stop-shop” for business assistance in the city of New Bedford. Working cooperatively with dozens of local, state, and federal agencies, the NBEDC can facilitate introductions to the appropriate office and person. Programs are available to help structure financial assistance and tax incentive packages; locate commercial property available for lease, sale or development; and provide technical assistance for project development. Contact information for the NBEDC is available in Appendix II.

We hope that entrepreneurs and business assistance professionals find this guide easy to use and helpful in starting or assisting small businesses in New Bedford.

User feedback is welcome. Please send e-mails to: Alla Yakovlev, Assistant Director of the Center for Economic Opportunity at [ayakovlev@pioneerinstitute.org](mailto:ayakovlev@pioneerinstitute.org)

## ***Disclaimer***

The information contained in this guide is limited to the procedures and requirements for entrepreneurs who are starting sole proprietorships. This guide cannot reflect changes in federal, state or municipal laws, rules, regulations or filing fees that occur following its publication. While municipalities outside New Bedford may have similar regulations and tax requirements, this guide only addresses New Bedford's. This guide should not be used for starting a business in other cities and towns.



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLAN**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Check with the fire department to ensure that your building conforms to fire code.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
[info@nbedc.org](mailto:info@nbedc.org)  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC, draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122  
Fax: 508-991-7372  
[info@nbedc.org](mailto:info@nbedc.org)  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will

look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

**New Bedford City Hall**

### 4 LICENSING

There are no required licenses to open an art gallery.

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118*

133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible, get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

**Assessor's Office**  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service*  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue*  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Artists' Living/Working Space

---



## CHECKLIST

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

- Draft a business plan

### 2 LOCATION

- Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
- Apply for a working / living space permit with the Building Department. If the application is rejected apply for a special permit with the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Ensure signage meets regulation.
- Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.

### 4 LICENSING

- None necessary. If you want to live in the Ropeworks Building have proof that you work as an artist.

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

- Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).

### 6 TAXES

- Visit the City Assessors Office
- File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail

### 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
- File federal tax forms for your business
- Get a federal tax identification number

### 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
- File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
- Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate

### 9 INSURANCE

- Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122  
Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the City Planner:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

- 3d. If you would like to utilize a building which is not already artist living/working space (the Ropeworks, for example), you must file an application with the **Building Department**, which can be found at:

*Building Department  
133 William St. #308  
New Bedford, MA 02740*

Once the application is rejected the applicant must file a **special permit application** with the **Zoning Board of Appeals** in room 308 of the same building.

## 4 LICENSING

Obtain all necessary licenses and permits.

If you wish to live in the Ropeworks Building you should prepare some sort of evidence that you work as an artist. Evidence might include an art degree or a history of professional work.

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue*  
*Data Integration Bureau*  
*PO Box 7022*  
*Boston, MA 02204*  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

**TIP:** The Ropeworks building provides working / living space for artists in New Bedford. The building is administered by 123 Sawtooth. The building is located at 123 Sawyer Street. 123 Sawtooth can be contacted at [info@123sawtooth.com](mailto:info@123sawtooth.com).

# Auto Repair/Auto Body Shop

---



## CHECKLIST

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

- Draft a business plan

### 2 LOCATION

- Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
- Ensure signage meets regulation.
- Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.

### 4 LICENSING

- Obtain all necessary licenses and permits
- File for the appropriate permits from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Apply for an Auto Repair/Body License through the Licensing Board
- Obtain additional necessary licenses

### BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

- Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).

### 6 TAXES

- Visit the City Assessors Office
- File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail

### 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
- File federal tax forms for your business
- Get a federal tax identification number

### 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
- File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
- Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate

### 9 INSURANCE

- Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122  
Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will

look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

Obtain all necessary licenses and permits

- 4a. Operating an auto repair shop requires that you deal properly with hazardous wastes such as waste oil, waste gasoline, and waste generated from degreasing auto parts. You must file the appropriate forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**.

*Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-292-5500  
<http://www.state.ma.us/dep>*

You will also need to register with the DEP as a generator of hazardous waste and/or waste oil. Complete the Hazardous Waste Generator Registration Form for:

- 1) Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG) if your business generates less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste and/or less than 27 gallons of waste oil per month; or
- 2) Small Quantity Generator (SQG) if your business generates only waste oil (220- 2,200 pounds or 27 to 270 gallons per month)

You can download the registration form from the DEP website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/approvals/hwforms.htm - gen>

If your business will be a Small Quantity Generator (SQG) of hazardous waste and/or waste oil (220-2,200 pounds or 27 to 270 gallons per month) or a Large Quantity Generator (LQG) of hazardous waste and/or waste oil (more than 2,200 pounds and/or 270 gallons per month), you need to file a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity Form.

To file on-line, go to DEP's website: <http://www.mass.gov/dep>

Click on the e-DEP icon, and register with e-DEP. Log in, then click online forms. The Notification of Waste Activity is in the drop down list. You will be prompted for your EPA ID number and your Tax ID number.

If DEP does not have this information on file for your facility, or if you do not have an EPA ID number, you should submit the "RCRA Notification of HW Activity Preliminary Form." DEP will use the information from the preliminary form to set up your facility, and will send back an email with the code needed to complete the notification.

To file the notification by mail:

Download notification of Hazardous Waste Activity Form from:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/approvals/hwactvty.doc>

Complete and sign the notification. Save a copy for your own files.

As a New Bedford business owner, you will need to return the completed form to the **DEP Southeast Office** (Attn: BWP).

*MassDEP Southeast Region  
20 Riverside Drive  
Lakeville, MA 02347  
508-946-2700  
[Service.Center@state.ma.us](mailto:Service.Center@state.ma.us)*

If spray painting will be performed on site, MassDEP requires auto body/repair businesses to comply with air pollution control regulations to minimize Emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other pollutants. Call the MassDEP Southeast Regional Service Center at 508-946-2714 and ask to speak to a BWP permit engineer or inspector to understand your compliance options." For additional information on technical compliance, vendors, pollution prevention, and cost reduction at your shop, download the EPA's publication "Auto refinishing best practices kit" available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/dfe/pubs/auto/trainers/index.htm>

Contact the Office of Technical Assistance for Toxics Use Reduction guidance manual, "Crash Course for Compliance and Pollution Prevention " (October, 1998) available online in both English and Spanish versions at:

[http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/publications/tech\\_reports.htm](http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/publications/tech_reports.htm)

MassDEP compliance assistance fact sheets are available at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/compliance/factguid.htm#hwm>

To learn more about various policies pertinent to auto body/repair shops. Go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/laws/policies.htm>

- 4b. Additional licenses are required through the **Massachusetts Division of Standards** if you plan to sell antifreeze, motor fuel and/or lubricating oil. Applications for these permits can be downloaded at the Division of Standards website. Alternatively, you may also call the Division of Standards to request a paper copy. You will be instructed to leave a message with your name and mailing address.

*Massachusetts Division of Standards  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1115  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-3480  
<http://www.state.ma.us/standards/license.htm>*

If auto body or glasswork will be done, a **license** is also required through the **Division of Standards**. The completed application must include the following:

- Two letters of recommendation from individuals who are either Registered Motor Vehicle Repair Shop operators, elected public officials, or members of the Massachusetts Bar
- A registration fee of \$450 payable by business check or money order to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- A surety bond or letter of credit for \$10,000.

- 4c. You must get an **Auto Repair** and/or **Auto Body License** from the **Licensing Board**.

*Licensing Board  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 206  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1547*

- 4d. Contact the **New Bedford Fire Prevention Bureau** to acquire any hazardous material permits and licenses that you may need:

*New Bedford Fire Prevention Bureau  
181 Hillman Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6120*

- 4e. If you have jukeboxes or videogame machines to entertain waiting customers, you must get a **permit** from the **Licensing Board**. Contact the Board for more information.

- 4f. Snack or soda machines in your shop require permits from the **Massachusetts Food Protection Program** (FPP). Applications are available for download at the FPP website or you can contact the FPP directly:

*Food Protection Program*

*Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
305 South Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
617-983-6700  
<http://www.mass.gov/dph/fpp/vendinglic.htm>*

4g. Also, if selling food, contact the **Inspectional Services Division** to see if you need any **food safety permits**.

*Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide

instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Barber Shop

---



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Become (or hire) a registered master barber and obtain a barber shop license
  - Obtain additional necessary permits or licenses
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org/>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

**NOTE:** There is an issue if the barbershop rents chairs. Care must be taken to meet workmen’s compensation insurance requirements and liability insurance requirements.

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
[http://www.nbedc.org](http://www.nbedc.org/)*

Draft a detailed floor plan for submission to the **Board of Registration of Barbers**. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned rooms, equipment, both front and back doors, bathrooms and sinks, and shop set-up. You must also indicate where the barber pole or decal will be located (legally required to be on a window or door that is clearly visible to the public). Don't forget to include your name, two numbers where you can be contacted, the shop address (not a post office box), and the anticipated opening date. If you are purchasing an already licensed shop you will either need to submit a copy of the original license or the name and license number of the previous shop owner with your floor plan.

*Board of Registration of Barbers  
Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure  
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-727-7367*

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

## 4 LICENSING

Every barbershop must be under the supervision of a licensed master barber during hours of operation and have a barbershop license.

- 4a. To become a master barber, you must be a licensed apprentice for at least 18 months. Then you may request an application from the **Board of Registration of Barbers**. Visit the office in person to present a copy of your apprentice license and discuss the application process. Before you can become a Master Barber, you will also be required to take a computer-based assessment test and a practical examination. After pre-approval by the Board or your school, call Promissor to schedule an appointment at 1-800-274-2021. For further information contact the Board of Barbers or visit their website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/br/default.htm>

- 3b. To apply for a license for your shop from the **Board of Registration of Barbers**, submit two copies of your shop floor plan, a new shop application, a copy of your occupancy permit, and the non-refundable application and license fee to the Board, attn: New Shop.
- 3c. After your application has been reviewed, the shop-opening investigator will contact you. If your floor plan is approved, the investigator will schedule an inspection appointment with you. If you miss this inspection appointment, your shop application will automatically be denied and you will have to reapply and re-pay the fee. On the day of your inspection appointment, you will need a driver's license or photo ID and a current copy of 232 CMR, the Board of Barbers Rules and Regulations. The rules and regulations can be obtained from the Statehouse Bookstore, 617-727-2834, or online at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/br/cmr/232201.htm>

The shop inspector will look for several critical things in your shop:

- hot and cold running water
- a sink or sinks capable of disposing of all wastewater
- an available bathroom, with a toilet and an adequate sink for hand washing
- a sink for hand washing in addition to the bathroom sink
- proper lighting and ventilation.

If the inspector finds the facility up to code, then he/she will allow the shop to open and the registration board will issue a license for the barbershop. Licenses for barbershops are renewed biennially.

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Beauty Salon

---



## CHECKLIST

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

- Draft a business plan

### 2 LOCATION

Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan. Submit the floor plan to the Board of Cosmetologists, Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure for review and approval.

- Submit floor plan to the Board of Cosmetologists, Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure for review and approval.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
- Ensure signage meets regulation.
- Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.

### 4 LICENSING

- Become (or hire) a Manager Level (Type 1) cosmetologist and obtain an operating license.
- Obtain additional necessary licenses

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

- Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).

### 6 TAXES

- Visit the City Assessors Office
- File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail

### 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
- File federal tax forms for your business
- Get a federal tax identification number

### 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
- File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
- Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate

### 9 INSURANCE

- Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

**NOTE:** There is an issue if the beauty salon rents chairs. Care must be taken to meet workmen’s compensation insurance requirements and liability insurance requirements.

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
508-991-3122  
[www.nbedc.org](http://www.nbedc.org)*

Select a location for your shop and draft a detailed floor plan for submission to the **Board of**

**Registration of Cosmetologists.** If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned rooms/equipment, front door/back door, bathroom location, and salon set-up on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper. Each room must be labeled with its specific use. The floor plan should also include your name, two numbers where you can be contacted, the shop address (not a post office box), and the anticipated opening date. If you are purchasing an already licensed shop you will also need to submit a copy of the original license or the name and license number of the previous shop owner with your floor plan.

*Board of Registration of Cosmetologists  
Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure  
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-727-9940  
<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/hd/index.htm>*

- 2a. If this property is attached to your home, the shop and home must comply with the regulations of the Board of Registration of Cosmetologists.
- Home operation requires licensure from the Division of Professional Licensure.
  - You must have a room or rooms separated from the living quarters in the house, and there must be an available bathroom facility for employees and customers that is separate from the facility used by residents of the home.
  - The door leading into the salon must be visible from the street and must not require customers to pass through the living quarters of the residence.

For more information on facility and sanitation requirements (e.g. signage, presence of animals, and smoking) see Salon Rules & Regulations at the Board of Registration of Cosmetologists website.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

## 4 LICENSING

Become (or hire) a licensed cosmetologist and obtain an operating license.

- 4a. In order to become a licensed cosmetologist, you must complete several levels of instruction and certification. The full listing of cosmetology licenses is available on the **Board of Registration of Cosmetologists’** website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/hd/cmr/24002.htm>

- 4b. To get your shop/salon licensed, mail a completed application package to the Board of Cosmetology, Attn: New Salon. Your completed application should include:
- two copies of the floor plan
  - original and one copy of completed application
  - the non-refundable application and license fee (currently \$113, in a cashier’s check or money order made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)
  - a passport photo (2" x 2")
  - a copy of your driver’s license or photo ID
  - a copy of the Business Certificate and/or an Occupancy Permit (if an occupancy permit cannot be obtained, then you may submit either the plumbing and electrical forms or the “no work required” form instead).
- 4c. When applying for a new salon-operating license, every owner also has the option of applying for a Booth Renter’s license. A Booth Renter’s license allows you to rent salon space to other licensed cosmetologists. If you do not intend to rent space initially but think you will do so in the future, the Board of Cosmetologists still recommends that you apply for this supplemental license. Otherwise when you do decide to rent, you will have to complete a new application for a shop license and repay the associated fees.
- 4d. Once your application form has been received and approved, a salon investigator will contact you to schedule an inspection appointment. Processing generally takes 3-4 weeks. At the time of the inspection, you will need the following documents:
- your driver’s license or photo ID
  - manager’s (if not the owner) driver’s license or photo ID and current cosmetology license
  - current copy of the CMR 240, Board of Cosmetology Rules and Regulations, available at the Statehouse Bookstore, 617-727-2834, or online at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/hd/cmr/24003.htm>

- 4d. Depending on what your shop will do, you may need to receive some permits from the Health Department of the Inspectional Services Division:

*Health Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Obtain all necessary licenses and certifications
  - Become a Food Safety Manager and get a ServSafe License
  - Get necessary food safety permits from the Health Department.
  - Obtain additional necessary licenses or permits.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will

look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

*NOTE:* A catering business cannot be operated from a residential kitchen; you **must** have a licensed food service establishment as your base of operations. It is possible to rent a commercial kitchen, which may be less expensive than owning your own. Some social clubs rent their kitchens specifically for this purpose.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

Obtain all necessary licenses and permits

- 4a. Become or hire a certified **Food Safety Manager** and get a **ServSafe License**. Contact the **Inspectional Services Division** to find out about available training sessions. Also, inquire about which **food safety permits** you will need:

*Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308*

133 William Street  
508-979-1540

- 4b. If looking to serve alcohol at a function, contact the **Licensing Board** about **liquor licenses**:

*Licensing Board*  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 206  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1547

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk*  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office*  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Child Care

---



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
  - Have your proposed child care facility inspected by DEEC to ensure that it conforms to state standards
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Become a licensed child care provider
  - Complete the Massachusetts Department of Early Education (DEEC) New Provider Orientation Program
  - Submit the Massachusetts Child Care Provider's License application to the DEEC
  - Acquire any additional necessary permits
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, ensuring that your property conforms to **Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC)** guidelines. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work has been completed. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors,

windows, equipment, plumbing, and electrical outlets. You must have a minimum of 150 square feet of usable indoor space if caring for one or two children and a minimum of 225 square feet of approved usable floor space if caring for three to six children. Bathroom, hallways, and adult only zones do not count for square footage requirements.

- 2a. The following home safety questions need to be addressed in your child care providers' license application and should be taken into consideration as you draft a floor plan.

### **Outdoor Space**

- Are you using your own yard for an outdoor play area? Do you have at least 75 square feet per child? (required)
- Is the yard fenced, and, if so, how high is the fence? Is it on a busy street?
- Do you have a porch that is more than three feet high?
- Do you own a swimming pool (not a wading pool)? How is this pool kept safe for children?
- Do you have a private well? (Well water must pass State purity and quality tests)
- Is there standing water, steep drop offs, railroad tracks or other hazards on or near your property?

### **Indoor Space**

- How many exits are in your home? Where are they located?
  - Do you have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of the establishment?
  - Do you have a written evacuation plan in case of fire, gas leak, or other emergency?
  - Do you have locks on all bathroom and closet doors? Are these locks easily opened from inside and out?
  - Do you have to pass through someone else's living space to leave the facility?
  - Are all accessible windows securely screened, barricaded, or do they open only from the top?
  - Is there a working flashlight on each floor of the home?
  - Is there peeling, flaking, or chipped paint on the premises? Do you have broken plaster? (Must be addressed before you may operate a child care center.)
  - Was your property constructed prior to 1978? Have you checked for lead paint? (Must be professionally removed before you may operate a child care center.)
  - Do you keep firearms or ammunition in your home? How do you store these firearms and ammunition so they are inaccessible to children?
  - Are all potentially hazardous materials (cleaning supplies, razors, cosmetics, medications, etc.) stored so they are inaccessible? The state will inspect the facility room by room to ensure this, particularly bathrooms and kitchens.
  - Are all heating sources (e.g. radiators, hot water pipes, fuel-burning stoves, and fireplaces) inaccessible to children?
  - Are all accessible unused electrical outlets covered?
  - Are all stairways of four or more stairs barricaded? (Required when caring for children under three.) Do you have pressure gates? Where will they be located? (Not allowed at the top of stairs.)
- 2b. Your child care facility must have an operable telephone. Next to the telephone a list of emergency telephone numbers (including Fire, Police, Ambulance, Poison Control Center, and the nearest emergency health care facility), the names and numbers of two emergency contacts, and your name, address, and phone number must be posted.
- 2c. Before you are permitted to open for business, **DEEC** will inspect your facility to determine if it meets state standards. The inspector will indicate any changes that need to be made to the property, or certifications you must obtain before you can open for

business. Ask for copies of any paperwork from the inspection(s). If you are certified, your license will be valid for up to three years.

There are different requirements for center based day care and home based day care.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

Before you begin providing child care services, you must be licensed by the **Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC)** as a child care provider:

*Massachusetts Department of Early Education Central Office  
600 Washington Street, Suite 6100  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-988-6600  
<http://www.eec.state.ma.us/>*

Call the Boston Regional Office to learn more about becoming a licensed childcare provider. If yours is to be a center-based daycare there are additional regulations

regarding certification of the director and staff.

*Massachusetts Department of Early Education Southeast and Cape Office  
21 Spring Street, Suite 2  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Phone: (508) 828-5025*

- 4a. Complete the **DEEC New Provider Orientation Program**. DEEC has a number of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&R) throughout Massachusetts. These organizations offer information, referral, education, training, technical assistance, and resource development to parents, child care providers, employers, and community groups.
- 4b. Request a copy of the **Massachusetts Child Care Provider's License** for Home Providers application from **DEEC** or download the forms online:

[http://www.eec.state.ma.us/kr\\_licensing.aspx](http://www.eec.state.ma.us/kr_licensing.aspx)

The child care license application you should obtain will depend on the number and ages of children that you intend to watch in your home:

- **Regular Family Child Care License:** up to six children.
- **Family Child Care Plus License:** up to six children under the age of 7 and two children over the age of 7.
- **Large Family Child Care:** up to 10 children.

Different licenses are required for center based child care. Before you submit the application to open your facility, there are number of requirements you will have to meet. For additional guidance, call the DEEC or read their electronic guide online:

[http://www.eec.state.ma.us/oo\\_licensing.aspx](http://www.eec.state.ma.us/oo_licensing.aspx)

#### **Medical requirements:**

- Obtain current certification in basic first aid and CPR for infants and children.
- Obtain measles, mumps, and rubella immunizations.
- Have a recent, negative test on record for tuberculosis (TB) on a Mantoux TB test.
- Receive a complete physical.
- Have your physician fill out the medical form in the application packet.

#### **Information requirements:**

- Submit a list of persons living in your household and detail any physical, mental, or emotional problems that could affect your provision of day care.
- Submit a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Form. Every individual 17 or older who regularly visits or lives in the house must undergo this background check. Certain criminal offenses may disqualify a home for a Family Child Care license. You can file CORI forms electronically.
- For further information, contact your regional DEEC representative at 617-472-2881.
- Compile a list of references.
- Compile a list of child care jobs that you have held in the past.
- Find two persons who live within ten minutes of your day care location who could help you in case of an emergency.
- Submit a written activities plan in compliance with the requirements of the state law listed under Section 102 CMR 8.12 to your DEEC inspector.

- 4c. Submit the application and a signed check or money order in the amount of the licensing fee to DEEC as specified in the application packet.

*NOTE:* You will be required to maintain health and attendance records for each child that you or an assistant supervises. For more information on licensing and operating regulations, visit the DEEC website:

[http://www.eec.state.ma.us/kr\\_regulations\\_main.aspx](http://www.eec.state.ma.us/kr_regulations_main.aspx)

- 4d. If you serve 20 or more children, then the facility meets the definition of a small public water supply and should obtain a **Drinking Water permit** through **MassDEP**. For details, please contact MassDEP *South East Region Drinking Water Program*
- 4e. If you are serving food or snacks, you may need **food safety permits** from the **Inspectional Services Division:**

*Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office:**

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109*

133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service*  
*JFK Federal Building*  
*15 New Sudbury St.*  
*Boston, MA 02203*  
*617-316-2850*  
<http://www.irs.gov>

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue*  
*Data Integration Bureau*  
*PO Box 7022*  
*Boston, MA 02204*  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it

from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Cleaning Service/Sewing Shop/Shoe Repair Shop

---



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Obtain all necessary licenses and permits
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council*  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC*  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council*  
*Real Estate Assistance Program*  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
[www.nbedc.org](http://www.nbedc.org)

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

New Bedford has no licensing requirements.

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue*

*Data Integration Bureau*  
*PO Box 7022*  
*Boston, MA 02204*  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office. Bonding of employees is a form of insurance that is often used by cleaning services to demonstrate to their customers that the employees are reliable.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Dry Cleaner

---



## CHECKLIST

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

- Draft a business plan

### 2 LOCATION

- Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
- Ensure signage meets regulation.
- Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.

### 4 LICENSING

- Obtain the appropriate permits from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and, if applicable, receive ERP Compliance Certification.
- Obtain any additional necessary permits or licenses.

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

- Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).

### 6 TAXES

- Visit the City Assessors Office
- File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail

### 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
- File federal tax forms for your business
- Get a federal tax identification number

### 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
- File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
- Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate

### 9 INSURANCE

- Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council*  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
[info@nbedc.org](mailto:info@nbedc.org)  
<http://www.nbedc.org>

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC*  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council*  
*Real Estate Assistance Program*  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
[info@nbedc.org](mailto:info@nbedc.org)  
<http://www.nbedc.org>

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

File the appropriate forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**.

*Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-292-5500  
<http://www.state.ma.us/dep>*

- 4a. Operating a dry cleaning facility requires that you deal properly with potential pollutants such as:
- industrial wastewaters from your separator, vacuum, washing machine or boiler;
  - air contaminants from the perchloroethylene, dry cleaning machines, boilers, or spotting

- solvents;
- hazardous waste including waste perchloroethylene, muck, used filters, saturated rags, lint, or wipes.

You will also need to register with the DEP as a generator of hazardous waste. Complete the Hazardous Waste Generator Registration Form if your business is a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) of hazardous waste (less than 220 pounds per month). You can download the form from the DEP website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/approvals/hwforms.htm - gen>

If your business will be a Small Quantity Generator (SQG) of hazardous waste (220-2,200 pounds per month) or a Large Quantity Generator of hazardous waste (more than 2,200 pounds per month), you need to file a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity Form. Go to DEP's website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep>

Click on the e-DEP icon, and register with e-DEP. Log in, then click online forms. The Notification of Waste Activity is in the drop down list. You will be prompted for your EPA ID number and your Tax ID number.

If DEP does not have this information on file for your facility, or if you do not have an EPA ID number, you should submit the "RCRA Notification of HW Activity Preliminary Form." DEP will use the information from the preliminary form to set up your facility, and will send back an email with the code needed to complete the notification.

As a New Bedford business owner, you will need to return the completed form to the DEP **Southeastern Office** (Attn: BWP).

*MassDEP Southeast Region  
20 Riverside Drive  
Lakeville, MA 02347  
508-946-2700  
[dep.seroinfo@state.ma.us](mailto:dep.seroinfo@state.ma.us)*

- 4b. Obtain **Environmental Results Program (ERP) Certification** from the **Massachusetts DEP** *unless* your dry cleaning business will not conduct cleaning operations onsite, will not use perchloroethylene, or will use only coin operated dry cleaning machines. ERP is an annual certification process covering air pollution, industrial waste, and hazardous waste management requirements.
- 4c. In some cases, your facility could require additional permitting beyond ERP to comply with federal, state, or local environmental regulations. This may include (but is not limited to) the following:
  - industrial wastewater from your facility, including wet laundry wastewater, will discharge into a storm drain, waterbody, waterway, certified wetland, the ground, or sewer;
  - in a year, your facility will use more than 2,100 gallons of perchloroethylene in dry-to-dry machines or 1,800 gallons of perchloroethylene facility-wide where transfer machines are in use.

- in a year, your facility will use more than 10,000 pounds of toxic chemicals on the federal CERCLA or EPCRA chemical lists.

*NOTE:* Once your business is open, be sure to regularly review environmental regulations as they change over time. Some states have already banned the use of perchloroethylene

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Obtain all necessary licenses and permits
  - If you plan to *grow* “woody plants,” obtain a Agriculture Grower’s certificate from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture
  - If you plan to *sell* “woody plants,” obtain an Agent’s certificate from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture
  - If you plan to sell flowers on the sidewalk, obtain Hawkers and Peddlers License from the Massachusetts Division of Standards through the City Clerk.
  - Obtain any additional necessary permits or licenses.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business and get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business’s facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

There are no specific licenses for florists vending cut flowers and annuals, but other licenses or certificates may apply.

- 4a. If you intend to open a shop that will grow or sell “nursery stock” then your business will be subject to regulation by the **Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture’s Bureau of Farm Products & Plant Industries**. Nursery stock includes “woody plants” such as rose bushes, shrubs, trees, rhododendrons (including azaleas), and many household plants.

*Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture  
Bureau of Farm Products & Plant Industries  
251 Causeway Street #500  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1700  
<http://www.state.ma.us/dfa>*

If you intend to sell regulated nursery stock, you will need an **Agent's License**. You can obtain an application by calling the **Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture** or visiting their website:

<http://www.mass.gov/agr/index.htm>

If you intend to cultivate nursery stock for subsequent sale, you will need a **Grower's Certificate**. Your business will also be subject to an inspection fee based on the size of your operation. For a fee schedule and an application for your certificate, visit the **Bureau of Farm Products and Plant Industries** website:

[http://www.mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/plants/nursery\\_fee\\_schedule.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/plants/nursery_fee_schedule.htm)

- 4b. If your sidewalk operations will not be based out of a tent, booth, building or other stationary structure, you must obtain an application for a **Hawkers and Peddlers License** through the City Clerk:

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

Ultimately, you will need to send the application to the **Massachusetts Division of Standards** with a \$66 application fee.

*Massachusetts Division of Standards  
One Ashburton Place, Room 115  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-3480  
<http://www.mass.gov>*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Home-Based Business

---



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Draft a detailed floor plan.
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Check with the fire department to ensure that your building conforms to fire code.
  - If selling tobacco, alcohol, second-hand goods or food, obtain any additional necessary permits or licenses.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

## 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

## 4 LICENSING

Different licenses and permits will be required depending on the nature of the home based business. If you are vending any of the following products, however, you should contact the appropriate agency for information on licenses or permits.

- 4a. Tobacco: **Massachusetts Department of Revenue**, Cigarette Tax Unit at 617-887-5090 or visit <http://www.dor.state.ma.us/cigarette/cigarette.htm>.
- 4b. Second-hand goods: **City Clerk** about a **Second-Hand Dealer License**:

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

- 4c. Alcohol: **New Bedford Licensing Board** about a **retail liquor license**:

*Licensing Board  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 206  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1547*

- 4d. Food: **Inspectional Service's Health Department**:

*Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 4e. Lottery Tickets: **Massachusetts Lottery Commission** (800-462-0234 x 739) or <http://www.masslottery.com/foragents.html>

- 4f. Fresh Seafood (not canned): **Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Food Protection Program** (617-983-6700) and the **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries** (617-626-1520).

*NOTE:* If your business will stock canned, frozen, and perishable foods in all four staple foods groups (breads/cereals, dairy products, fruits/ vegetables, and meat/poultry/fish), you may be eligible to accept food stamps. For more information on obtaining a license, contact the New England office to the **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service**.

*U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Causeway Street, Room 501  
Boston, MA 02222-1060  
617-565-6380*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include

liability, property, business interruption, “key man,” automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called “Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28,” which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

**TIP:** SCORE, an advisory group for small businesses, offers helpful information for people who are starting home businesses. The site can be found here: [http://www.score.org/bp\\_10.html](http://www.score.org/bp_10.html).

# Home Improvement Contractor

---



## CHECKLIST

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

- Draft a business plan

### 2 LOCATION

- Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
- Ensure signage meets regulation.
- Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.

### 4 LICENSING

- Become a registered Home Improvement Contractor
- Obtain additional necessary permits or licenses

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

- Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).

### 6 TAXES

- Visit the City Assessors Office
- File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail

### 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
- File federal tax forms for your business
- Get a federal tax identification number

### 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
- File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
- Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate

### 9 INSURANCE

- Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
[info@nbedc.org](mailto:info@nbedc.org)  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
[info@nbedc.org](mailto:info@nbedc.org)  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

Register with the **Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS)**.

- 4a. If you plan to do residential contracting including, but not limited to, carpentry, roofing, siding, and/or window work, then you must register with the BBRS **Massachusetts Home Improvement Contractor Program**. Call the Home Improvement Contractor Program office at 617-727-7532 to request an application or download the forms online. This program also details contract requirements and provides sample contracts. Depending on scope of your intended business or your professional background, you may be exempt from the registration requirement.

*Massachusetts Home Improvement Contractor Registration Program  
State Board of Building Regulations and Standards  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1301*

Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-7532  
<http://www.state.ma.us/bbrs/hic.htm>

- 4b. Return your completed application and two certified checks or money orders for your registration fee and one-time Guaranty Fund contribution. Licensed constructions supervisors in good standing are exempt from the registration fee but everyone is required to donate to the Guaranty Fund, which reimburses up to \$75,000 of any damages incurred by a home owner whose contractor violates the law. As a sole proprietor, your mandatory donation will be \$100.

*NOTE:* Home Improvement Contractor Registration does not give you the authority to perform the duties of a licensed tradesman such as a plumber or electrician. If you plan to become a licensed plumber or electrician, please contact the **Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure** for details.

*Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure  
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114*

Board of State Examiners of Plumbers & Gasfitters  
617-727-9952  
<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/pl>

Board of State Examiners of Electricians  
617-727-9931  
<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/el>

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be

assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City Assessor's Office:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include

liability, property, business interruption, “key man,” automobile, and home office. If you operate as a subcontractor on a larger job, you may be required to show evidence of workers compensation insurance on yourself.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called “Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28,” which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Interior Decorator

---



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Obtain additional necessary permits and licenses
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

If operating out of an office, draft a detailed floor plan, as you will need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan

should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

There are no unique licensing requirements to operate an interior decorating business in Massachusetts. Interior decorators can and often do work without formal credentials or training. However, decorating is a very competitive field and you may want to consider becoming certified with the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) or a similar trade association before starting your business. To become certified you will need to pass the National Council of Interior Design Qualification exam. This exam tests your understanding of national, state, and local building and fire safety codes, spatial planning, and project management. For more information about the differences between interior design and interior decorating, contact ASID or visit their website:

*American Society of Interior Designers  
608 Massachusetts Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-546-3480  
<http://www.asid.org>*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.



## CHECKLIST

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

- Draft a business plan

### 2 LOCATION

- Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
- Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.

### 4 LICENSING

- Obtain additional necessary licenses and permits

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

- Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).

### 6 TAXES

- Visit the City Assessors Office
- File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail

### 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
- File federal tax forms for your business
- Get a federal tax identification number

### 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
- File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
- Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate

### 9 INSURANCE

- Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council*  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC*  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council*  
*Real Estate Assistance Program*  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
[www.nbedc.org](http://www.nbedc.org)

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

There are no unique licensing requirements for landscaping businesses. However, both the Massachusetts Arborists Association and Associated Landscape Contractors of Massachusetts offer optional certification and professional development programs. For more information on becoming a Massachusetts Certified Landscape Professional, contact either the MAA or ALCM.

*Massachusetts Arborists Association  
8D Pleasant Street  
South Natick, MA 01760  
508-653-3320  
<http://www.massarbor.org>*

*Associated Landscape Contractors of Massachusetts  
8D Pleasant Street  
South Natick, MA 01760  
508-653-3373  
<http://www.alcom.org/membership/program.html>*

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs. Commercial vehicle insurance is required on all trucks used in the business.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Obtain all necessary licenses and permits
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
  - Obtain additional licenses if applicable
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will

look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

As long as your facility will not service industrial facilities, hospitals/clinics, or commercial uniforms, there are no specific permitting requirements for operating a laundromat. However, your facility will need to be connected directly to New Bedford’s sewer system.

- 4a. Laundromats do not typically require additional permits from the **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection** (DEP). Depending on the amount of wastewater discharged from your facility, however, your laundromat may need permits for sewer discharge. For more information on this and other environmental regulations that could affect your business, contact the DEP Division of Business Compliance or visit their website:

*Division of Business Compliance*

*Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
MassDEP Southeast Region  
20 Riverside Drive  
Lakeville, MA 02347  
508-946-2700  
[dep.seroinfo@state.ma.us](mailto:dep.seroinfo@state.ma.us)*

- 4b. If you intend to place snack or soda machines in your laundromat, you will need permits from the **Massachusetts Food Protection Program (FPP)**. Applications can be downloaded at the FPP website or you can contact the FPP directly:

*Food Protection Program  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
305 South Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
617-983-6700  
<http://www.mass.gov/dph/fpp/vendinglic.htm>*

Also contact the **Inspectional Services Division**, to see if you need any food safety permits:

*Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 4c. If you have jukeboxes or videogame machines to entertain waiting customers, you must get licenses from the **Licensing Board**. Contact the Board for more details:

*Licensing Board  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 206  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1547*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a

debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City Assessor's Office:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Obtain all necessary licenses and permits
  - Register your vehicle(s) with the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles to obtain livery plates
  - Obtain other miscellaneous applicable licenses and permits, depending on your circumstances.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLAN

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 4a. Visit your local branch of the **Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV)**. Obtain the appropriate license for operating the vehicle(s) you will use transport passengers. Your vehicle(s) must have livery plates and meet Massachusetts’ inspection standards. Upon receiving your federal tax ID number (see Step 8), you may register your livery vehicles with the Registry of Motor Vehicles:
- You must acquire livery plates for each vehicle that you intend to use to carry passengers.
  - You will pay a minimum of \$80 dollars for each vehicle. If a vehicle has seven or fewer passenger seats, the additional fee per seat is \$6. If the vehicle has more that seven seats, it will cost you \$8 per seat in addition to the \$80 minimum fee.

For information on fees for registering your vehicle(s), visit the RMV website:

<http://www.mass.gov/rmv/fees/registration/index.htm#otherspecialty>

A designated livery vehicle is not permitted to have more than 15 passengers. There are different rules pertaining to vehicles that are legally considered buses. If you need to check on the status of your vehicle, call the RMV at 617-351-4500.

- 4b. Livery vehicles transporting more than nine passengers are required to have a Certificate of Compliance for Charter Service from the **Transportation Division** of the **Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy** (DTE).

*Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy*  
*One South Station*  
*Boston, MA 02110*  
*617-305-3559*  
<http://www.mass.gov/dte>

After you have submitted your application, you will be contacted by the DTE to discuss additional requirements for charter services.

- 4c. Livery services traveling on I-90, the I-93 tunnel, the South Station tunnel, and the Boston Harbor tunnels need a Common Carrier License from the **Massachusetts Turnpike Authority**.

*Massachusetts Turnpike Authority*  
*State Transportation Building*  
*10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160*  
*Boston, MA 02116*  
*617-248-2847*

- 4d. Vehicles that transport passengers across state lines and weigh more than 10,000 pounds need to register with the **U.S. Department of Transportation**.

*Department of Transportation*  
*Motor Carrier Safety*  
*55 Broadway, Bldg. 3*  
*Cambridge, MA 02142*  
*617-494-2270*  
<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/index.htm>

- 4e. Vehicles operating in and out of Logan Airport must obtain a letter from a city official (on official letterhead) stating that the city has no objections to your business before filing for permission from the **Massport Ground Transportation Unit** (GTU). Your operating agreement will require the following:
- proof of insurance for the certificate holder that covers at least: \$250,000 of bodily injury per person, \$500,000 of bodily injury per accident, and \$100,000 in property damage;
  - a Certificate of Insurance with a broker's stamp, authorized signature, and the name of the certificate holder;
  - a list of fleet vehicles;
  - a certified check or money order for the appropriate fee. (You will have to pay 3 months of operating fees in advance);
  - vehicles with operational air conditioning, a clean luggage compartment, and working

seat belts.

For more information, visit the Massport website:

<http://www.massport.com/logan/faq.html>

You should also request a copy of 740 CMR23.00 – *Rules and Regulations for the Operation of Commercial Ground Transportation Services at Boston-Logan International Airport.*

*Massport Authority  
1 Harborside Drive, Suite 200A  
East Boston, MA 02128  
617-561-1633*

*NOTE:* Massport offers commercial vehicles using alternative fuel and/or power sources recognized by the Energy Policy Act a 25 percent discount per outbound trip. This could be cost-effective if your business will make frequent trips to and from the airport. For more information contact Logan Ground Transport: 800-23-LOGAN.

4f. You also must acquire a **Livery License** from the **City Clerk**:

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City

## Assessor's Office:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs. Commercial vehicle insurance is required.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include

liability, property, business interruption, “key man,” automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called “Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28,” which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Check with the fire department to ensure that your building conforms to fire code.
  - If selling tobacco, alcohol, second-hand goods or food, obtain any additional necessary permits or licenses.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

There are no required licenses or permits for a retail store. If you are vending any of the following products, however, you should contact the appropriate agency for information on licenses or permits.

- 4a. Tobacco: **Massachusetts Department of Revenue**, Cigarette Tax Unit at 617-887-5090 or visit <http://www.dor.state.ma.us/cigarette/cigarette.htm>.
- 4b. Second-hand goods: **City Clerk** about a **Second-Hand Dealer License**:

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740*

508-979-1450

- 4c. Alcohol: **New Bedford Licensing Board** about a **retail liquor license**:

*Licensing Board  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 206  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1547*

- 4d. Food: **Inspectional Service's Health Department**:

*Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 4e. Lottery Tickets: **Massachusetts Lottery Commission** (800-462-0234 x 739) or <http://www.masslottery.com/foragents.html>

- 4f. Fresh Seafood (not canned): **Massachusetts Department of Public Health**, Food Protection Program (617-983-6700) and the **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries** (617-626-1520).

*NOTE:* If your store will stock canned, frozen, and perishable foods in all four staple foods groups (breads/cereals, dairy products, fruits/vegetables, and meat/poultry/fish), you may be eligible to accept food stamps. For more information on obtaining a license, contact the New England office to the **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service**.

*U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Causeway Street, Room 501  
Boston, MA 02222-1060  
617-565-6380*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a

debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City Assessor's Office:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Small Grocery Store

---



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Obtain all necessary licenses and permits
  - Become or hire a certified Food Safety Manager and get a ServSafe License.
  - Obtain additional necessary licenses or permits, depending on what you are selling.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

- 4a. Become or hire a certified **Food Safety Manager** and get a **ServSafe License**. Contact the **Health Department** of the **Inspectional Services Division** to find out about available training sessions. Also inquire about **food safety permits**.

*Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

There are no further required licenses or permits for a retail store. If you are vending any of the following products, however, you should contact the appropriate agency for information on licenses or permits.

4b. Tobacco: **Massachusetts Department of Revenue**, Cigarette Tax Unit at 617-887-5090 or visit <http://www.dor.state.ma.us/cigarette/cigarette.htm>.

4c. Alcohol: New Bedford **Licensing Board** about a retail liquor license:

*Licensing Board  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 206  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1547*

4d. Lottery Tickets: **Massachusetts Lottery Commission** (800-462-0234 x 739) or <http://www.masslottery.com/foragents.html>

4e. Fresh Seafood (not canned): **Massachusetts Department of Public Health**, Food Protection Program (617-983-6700) and the **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries** (617-626-1520).

*NOTE:* If your grocery store will stock canned, frozen, and perishable foods in all four staple foods groups (breads/cereals, dairy products, fruits/ vegetables, and meat/poultry/fish), you may be eligible to accept food stamps. For more information on obtaining a license, contact the New England office to the **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service**.

*U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Causeway Street, Room 501  
Boston, MA 02222-1060  
617-565-6380*

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be

assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City Assessor's Office:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your

business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, “key man,” automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called “Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28,” which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.



## CHECKLIST

- 1 BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 LICENSING**
  - Obtain all necessary licenses and permits
  - Get Food Safety Permits from the Health Department. Also, get information about obtaining a ServSafe License.
  - Get a Common Victualer License (along with any other applicable licenses) from the Licensing Board.
- 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

Obtain the necessary permits and certification.

- 4a. Become or hire a certified **Food Safety Manager** and get a **ServSafe License**. Contact the **Food and Milk Division** to find out about available training sessions.
- 4b. Contact the **Health Department** to find out which **food safety permits** you must get:

*Health Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 4c. Additionally, you get a **Common Victualer License** from the City. To start the process, contact the **Licensing Board**:

*Licensing Board  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 206  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1547*

- 4d. If you want to sell alcohol, you must obtain a **Liquor License**. Also through the **Licensing Board**.
- 4e. If you are providing live or recorded entertainment, you may need certain entertainment licenses, again, from the Licensing Board.

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**.

Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. You will be responsible for remitting Massachusetts meals tax. Information available at:

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Tour Operator (Land, Water, or Both)

---



## CHECKLIST

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

- Draft a business plan

### 2 LOCATION

- Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- Locate a berthing area if a tour boat will be utilized.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
- Ensure signage meets regulation.
- Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.

### 4 LICENSING

- Complete the “Application to Transport Passengers and Property for Hire,” which is processed by Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.
- Obtain a license to travel on the proposed tour route from the City Clerk.
- Obtain a Commercial Driver License with a “Passenger Transport” endorsement from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- Obtain a Captain’s License from the U.S. Coast Guard

### 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

- Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).

### 6 TAXES

- Visit the City Assessors Office
- File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail

### 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- File federal tax forms for your business
- Get a federal tax identification number

### 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
- File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
- Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate

### 9 INSURANCE

- Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business’s facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

# 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msbdc.org/semass](http://www.msbdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

# 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally, but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

If one wants to run a boat tour a berth will be required. The berth is the location where the boat will be located in the Port of New Bedford. The New Bedford Harbor Development Commission (HDC) can provide more information on berthing places. The HDC can be contacted at (508) 961-3000. The office of the HDC is found at 106 Co-op Wharf, but correspondence should be directed to:

*Harbor Development Commission  
P.O. Box 50899  
New Bedford, MA 02745*

## 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

## 4 LICENSING

Complete the **Application to Transport Passengers and Property for Hire**, which is processed by **Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities**. The application can be found here: <http://www.mass.gov/Eoca/docs/dte/transportation/propasap.pdf>.

Obtain a license to travel on the proposed tour route from the New Bedford **City Clerk**.

*If the tours will be conducted on land using motor vehicles:*

Obtain a **Commercial Driver License** with a “Passenger Transport Endorsement” from the **Registry of Motor Vehicles**. The application can be found here:

<http://www.mass.gov/rmv/license/8cdl.htm>

*If the tour will be conducted by boat:*

Determine the size of the tour group that will be transported.

*If the boat will carry six passengers or less:*

Apply for a “**6 Pack**” license from the **U.S. Coast Guard**. The “6 Pack License” entitles the license-holder to transport up to six passengers. The application can be found here:

<http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/checklists/OUPVMLD-FM-REC-107.pdf>

*If the boat will carry more than six passengers:*

Apply for a **Master, 100 Tons license** from the **U.S. Coast Guard**. The application for that license can be found here:

[www.uscg.mil/STCW/checklists/Master\\_100\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/checklists/Master_100_checklist.pdf)

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the **New Bedford City Assessor’s Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called “Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28,” which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# TV/Radio Repair

---



## CHECKLIST

- 1 **BUSINESS PLANNING**
  - Draft a business plan
- 2 **LOCATION**
  - Choose a location and draft a detailed floor plan
- 3 **ZONING AND PERMITTING**
  - Contact the Building Department and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.
  - Ensure signage meets regulation.
  - Check with the Conservation Commission that you meet wetland regulation.
- 4 **LICENSING**
  - Become a Licensed Master Technician for Television and Radio Repair.
- 5 **BUSINESS CERTIFICATE**
  - Get a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate from the City Clerk (only if company will be a sole proprietorship or general partnership).
- 6 **TAXES**
  - Visit the City Assessors Office
  - File the appropriate forms then begin bill payments in person or by mail
- 7 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
  - Call the Internal Revenue Service office in Boston
  - File federal tax forms for your business
  - Get a federal tax identification number
- 8 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**
  - Contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue
  - File Massachusetts state tax forms for your business
  - Get a Sales Tax Registration Number and Certificate
- 9 **INSURANCE**
  - Do a risk assessment and inventory of your business's facility and property



## DETAILED STEPS

### 1 BUSINESS PLANNING

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) offers technical business assistance, loan opportunities, workshops, and site location assistance once you have drafted a business plan (For additional resources, please refer to Appendix II).

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
1213 Purchase Street, Third Floor  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-3122  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Before contacting the NBEDC draft a business plan. Business plans are part of a continuous process to define your business concept, understand your market, set goals and effectively meet client needs. Typically, plans encompass operational issues including, but not limited to, the following: What services and products will your business provide and what needs do these fulfill? Who is your target market and how will you reach them? How will your company secure and repay financing? Contact the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center for a detailed business plan guide with a sample business plan:

*Southeastern Massachusetts Regional SBDC  
200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
508-673-9783  
[www.msfdc.org/semass](http://www.msfdc.org/semass)*

**TIP:** This guide concerns the regulations and licensing requirements for starting a sole proprietorship with no employees. If planning on hiring employees, consult Appendix I, “Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer.”

### 2 LOCATION

The New Bedford Economic Development Council Real Estate Assistance Program (REAP) maintains a list of commercial property for sale, rent, or lease to help business owners find property in New Bedford or relocate within the city.

*New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Real Estate Assistance Program  
1213 Purchase Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Tel: 508-991-3122 Fax: 508-991-7372  
info@nbedc.org  
<http://www.nbedc.org>*

Draft a detailed floor plan, as you may need it throughout the permitting and licensing process. If you plan to make repairs or do renovations, the floor plan should show what the property will look like when the work is complete. The floor plan does not need to be prepared professionally.

but must show all planned furniture, doors, windows, equipment, plumbing and electrical outlets.

### 3 ZONING AND PERMITTING

- 3a. Contact the **Building Department** and determine which building permits or certificates you may need.

*Building Department  
Inspectional Services Division  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 308  
133 William Street  
508-979-1540*

- 3b. If you are placing any new building signs or changing existing ones, contact the **Building Department**.

Any freestanding signage will have to be approved by the **City Planner**:

*Department of Planning  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 303  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1488*

- 3c. If you are within one hundred feet of a “wetland resource area”, you may need to file a **Notice of Intent** with the **Conservation Commission** in order to move forward with your project. For more information on what constitutes a “wetland resource area” or whether you need to file a Notice of Intent, contact the Conservation Commission:

*Conservation Commission  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-991-6188*

### 4 LICENSING

Become a **Licensed Master Technician for Television and Radio** with the state’s **Board of Television and Radio Repair**.

*Board of Registration of Radio and Television Technicians  
Division of Professional Licensure  
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-727-4459  
<http://mass.gov/dpl/boards/tv/index.htm>*

- 4a. Before you can become a Master Technician you must receive a basic technician’s license, also called a learner’s permit. To obtain your learner’s permit you must meet the following requirements:

- be at least 18 years old;
- pay the appropriate fee to the **Division of Professional Licensure**;
- have a licensed Master Technician submit a written statement made under oath certifying that you are employed with him or her, will work directly under his or her supervision, and that he or she will be jointly responsible for the quality of your work.

The learner's permit is effective for the duration of employment with the Master Technician who sponsors you initially, but for no longer than three years. For an application, visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/tv/forms/tvappl.pdf>.

- 4b. You are eligible to take the Master Technician licensure exam from the Board of Registration of Television and Radio after you have been a technician with at least one year (2,000 hours) of experience as a technician doing repair and maintenance of radio and TV receivers. For additional information on the exam and obtaining an application to become a Master Technician visit: <http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/tv>.

## 5 BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

Prior to opening, you must acquire a **Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate**. Complete an application and submit it to the **City Clerk** with the \$30 application fee (an additional \$10 is required for your own copy):

*City Clerk  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 118  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1450*

**TIP:** Open a business account with your local bank or credit union. If you are not using your social security number for your business, be sure to get your Tax ID# before opening a business bank account. A separate business account spares you the hassle of untangling personal and business transactions when you file taxes, decreases the likelihood of a missed deduction, and facilitates transparent recordkeeping in the event of an audit. Business accounts also increase credibility with potential lenders and clients and accommodate business growth. If possible get a debit card with your account to help you with back up record keeping.

## 6 TAXES

A **Form of List** is used to document the property owned by your business, so that it may be assessed and taxed by the city. It is required that you file one with the New Bedford City **Assessor's Office**:

*Assessor's Office  
New Bedford City Hall, Room 109  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-979-1440*

## 7 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

You must also file all necessary tax forms with the **United States Internal Revenue Service**. Once you file these forms, the IRS will give you a tax identification number and provide instructions on compliance with federal regulations.

*Internal Revenue Service  
JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-316-2850  
<http://www.irs.gov>*

## 8 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

You must also file tax forms with the **Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)**. Most sole proprietors file a Schedule C form with their income taxes. If you plan to sell tangible goods, you must file a Form TA-1 to pay Massachusetts' sales tax.

*Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Data Integration Bureau  
PO Box 7022  
Boston, MA 02204  
<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>*

- 8a. Call the DOR's Customer Service Office at 617-887-MDOR (6367) or toll free at 1-800-392-6089 to request the forms by mail. Forms and filing instructions are available on the DOR website; however, it is still recommended that you speak to a DOR representative to ensure you are in full compliance with the law:

<http://www.dor.state.ma.us/forms/formlist.htm>

- 8b. After you have completed the forms either file online or mail the printed forms. Once you file Form TA-1, you will receive your Massachusetts Sales Tax Registration Number.

## 9 INSURANCE

Do a thorough risk assessment and determine what coverage best suits your business's needs.

Most forms of insurance are not required. However, business insurance protects you and your business in the event of fire, theft, or other losses. The most common coverage types include liability, property, business interruption, "key man," automobile, and home office.

The U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) publishes a booklet called "Small Business Risk Management Guide, #MP-28," which contains information about insurance requirements for business owners. It is available from the SBA by calling 617-565-5590 or you can download it from their website at

[http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba\\_homepage/serv\\_pub\\_mplan\\_mp28eng.doc](http://www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/sba_homepage/serv_pub_mplan_mp28eng.doc)

If you get insurance, it is recommended that you assess and inventory your business facility and assets every two years. This will ensure replacement costs are up to date, enable you to settle claims faster, and help you explain business losses on your tax returns.

# Appendix I. Navigating the Regulations to Become an Employer

---

The Pioneer Institute's Center for Economic Opportunity proudly offers this brief supplement to previous *Navigating* guides. While prior guides assisted forming small enterprises, this facilitates developing those ventures into employers. The checklist explains the state and federal tax requirements and regulations surrounding hiring and employing. We hope you find it most useful and wish you luck in your ventures.

## Preparation

Before hiring:

1. **Get a *Federal Employer Identification Number*.**  
You will need to use this on tax returns. Submit an application, form SS-4, to the Internal Revenue Service. Find it at <http://www.irs.gov>.
2. **Register to pay *the state unemployment tax*.**  
Submit an Employer Status Report, form 1110, to the Massachusetts Division of Unemployment Assistance. Do it online using the state's Webfile system at <https://wfb.dor.state.ma.us/webfile/>.
3. **Get *workers' compensation insurance*.**  
Massachusetts state law requires it. The state offers the Massachusetts Guide to Workers' Compensation at <http://www.mass.gov/dia/DESKSCAN/erguide.pdf>. For more information, contact your insurance provider or the state's Insurance Rating Bureau: (617) 439-9030.
4. **Learn about *minimum wage laws, poster requirements, and the family leave act*.**  
The Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development offers plenty of information online: <http://www.mass.gov/dwd/other.htm>.

**TIP:** You may also want to register with the **Electronic Federal Tax Payment System**. Although it is not required, registering allows you to pay all of your federal taxes online. Go to <http://www.eftps.gov/> for more information.

## Hiring

With every new hire:

1. **Check for a *Social Security Card*.**  
If lacking one, the employee must submit an application, form SS-5, to the Social Security Administration. Find out more: <http://www.ssa.gov>.
2. **Submit a *W-4 form* for each new employee.**  
This form determines how much of his or her wages should be withheld. Submit this form to the Internal Revenue Service. You may do so online: <http://www.irs.gov>.
3. **Complete a federal *Employee Eligibility Verification Form*.**  
Do not submit this form to the government. You may dispose of this form a year after the employee's departure or three years after the hire, whichever is longer. Find the form, an I-9, at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website: <http://www.uscis.gov>.

**NOTE:** If your company has more than twenty-five employees, you must report all new hires to the state. You may do so online here: [http://www.cse.state.ma.us/programs/newhire/nh\\_system.htm](http://www.cse.state.ma.us/programs/newhire/nh_system.htm).

**TIP:** The Department of Workforce Development offers numerous hiring incentives and training grants. Find out more online: <http://www.detma.org/BSHome.htm>.

## Ongoing Taxes

While an employer:

1. *Withhold federal income, Medicare and social security taxes.*  
Use employees' W-4 forms, the IRS's Employer's Tax Guide, and the IRS's "withholding calculator." Find the latter two online: <http://www.irs.gov>.
  - a. Each quarter, report these withholdings with the employer's **quarterly federal tax return**, form 941. Find it at <http://www.irs.gov>.
2. *Pay the Federal Unemployment Tax.*  
Unlike the taxes in the previous step, this tax is *not* withheld from employee paychecks. Employers pay it.
  - a. Annually, report and pay this tax by submitting the **Employer's Federal Unemployment Tax return**, form 941. Again, find it at <http://www.irs.gov>.
3. *Distribute W-2 forms to employees at the end of each year.*  
Send copies of these wage-reporting forms to the Social Security Administration: <http://www.ssa.gov>.

**NOTE:** If employees collect more than \$20 per month in TIPS, these TIPS *must* be reported. Make sure employees complete form 4070: Employee's Report of TIPS to Employer, so that you can withhold employee income, social security, and employee Medicare tax on the employee's TIPS. Find form 4070 at <http://www.irs.gov>.

ERROR: syntaxerror  
OFFENDING COMMAND: %ztokenexec\_continue

STACK:

-filestream-