

Business License Cost Worksheet

Fillable Planning Worksheet — ClearLegalTips.com (2026)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Most businesses need more than one license. Use this to total federal, state, and local licensing costs for your specific business and location.

A. Your Situation

Tick what applies, then fill the right-hand column as you research your own numbers.

- ☐ Home-based business
- ☐ Storefront / physical location
- ☐ Sell products (may need sales-tax permit)
- ☐ Regulated industry (food, health, trades, childcare)

B. State & Local

Item	Typical Range	Your Estimate
State general business license	\$0 – \$300	\$
City / county business license	\$15 – \$400	\$
Sales-tax / seller's permit	\$0 – \$100	\$
Zoning / home-occupation permit	\$0 – \$150	\$

State & Local subtotal: _____

C. Industry-Specific

Item	Typical Range	Your Estimate
Professional / occupational license	\$50 – \$1,000	\$
Health / food-service permit	\$100 – \$1,000	\$
Building / fire inspection	\$0 – \$500	\$

Industry-Specific subtotal: _____

D. Renewals

Item	Typical Range	Your Estimate
Annual license renewal	\$0 – \$400	\$
Continuing education (if required)	\$0 – \$500	\$

Renewals subtotal: _____

E. Total Licensing Cost (Year 1)

Total Licensing Cost (Year 1): _____

F. Ways to Lower Your Cost

- ☐ Use the SBA license lookup to avoid paying for licenses you don't need
- ☐ Check if a home-occupation permit replaces a storefront license
- ☐ Bundle renewals to track due dates
- ☐ Confirm requirements with your city clerk before paying third parties

Notes

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