

Starting up a Food Business

We have copied up the information from the [Food Standards Agency website](#), if you are in any doubt about what you should be doing, please contact your local authority.

Before opening, get in touch with your local authority. They will be able to help you:

- register your food business
- to plan your business
- organise waste and recycling collection
- get appropriate training and tools

Register your business

You should register your premises with the environmental health service at your local authority at least 28 days before opening – registration is free.

Registration applies to most types of food business, including catering businesses run from home and mobile or temporary premises, such as stalls and vans.

If you have more than one premises, you will need to register all of them.

Checklist for starting up

- Have you registered your premises?
- Do the design and construction of your premises meet legal requirement?
- Are you aware of the main General Food Law Requirements?
- Do you keep written records of all the suppliers that provide you with food or any food ingredients?
- Have you put food safety management procedures in place and are you keeping up-to-date records of these?
- Do you and your staff understand the principles of good food hygiene?
- Have you considered health and safety and fire safety arrangements?
- Have you registered as self-employed?

- Do you need to register for VAT?
- Are you keeping records of all your business income and expenses?
- Are you keeping records of your employees' pay and do you know how to pay their tax and National Insurance contributions?
- Do you describe food and drink accurately?
- Do you need to apply for a licence to sell alcohol, for entertainment, for selling hot food and drink late at night, or selling food on the street?

Please contact your Local Authority to make sure you are complying with all legal requirements for a new food business

Guidance from [Mendip DC](#)

Guidance from [Sedgemoor DC](#)

Guidance from [North Somerset](#)

Guidance from [BathNES](#)

Guidance from [South Somerset](#)

Guidance from [West Somerset](#)

Guidance from [Taunton Deane](#)