**Business Insurance Information**

The purpose of business insurance is to protect a business owner from the unexpected cost of running a business due to things such as accidents, natural disasters, and lawsuits. It helps ensure both the owner’s personal and business assets are safeguarded from catastrophes.

The federal government requires every business with employees to have workers’ compensation, unemployment, and disability insurance, but additional requirements vary by state, so be sure to check one’s state’s website to find out if there are any.

There are six different types of small business insurance:

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| Type | Who It Is For | What It Does/Coverage |
| General Liability | Any business | Protects against financial loss as the result of bodily injury, property damage, medical expenses, libel, slander, defending lawsuits, and settlement bonds or judgements |
| Product Liability | Businesses that manufacture, wholesale, distribute, and retail a product | Protects against financial loss as a result of a defective product that causes injury or bodily harm |
| Professional Liability | Businesses that provide services to customers | Protects against financial loss as a result of malpractice, errors, and negligence |
| Commercial Property Insurance | Businesses with a significant amount of property and physical assets | Protects against loss and damage of company property due to a wide variety of events such as fire, smoke, wind and hail storms, civil disobedience, and vandalism |
| Home-Based Business | Businesses that are run out of the owner’s personal home | Is added to homeowner’s insurance as a rider to offer protection for a small amount of business equipment and liability coverage for third-party injuries |
| Business Owner’s Policy | Most small business owners, but especially home-based business owners | Package that combines all of the typical coverage options into one bundle to simplify the process and save money |

There are four steps to buy business insurance:

1. **Assess your risks.** Think about what kind of accidents, natural disasters, or lawsuits could damage your business. If you need help, the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) provides information for [choosing insurance](http://www.nfib.com/content/resources/insurance/bizhelp-small-business-insurance-dos-and-donts-74003/) to help you assess your risks and to make sure you've insured every aspect of your business.
2. **Find a reputable licensed agent.** Commercial insurance agents can help you find policies that match your business needs. They receive commissions from insurance companies when they sell policies, so it's important to find a licensed agent that’s interested in your needs as much as his/her own.
3. **Shop around.** Prices and benefits can vary significantly. You should compare rates, terms, and benefits for insurance offers from several different agents.
4. **Re-assess every year.** As your business grows, so do your liabilities. If you have purchased or replaced equipment or expanded operations, you should contact your insurance agent to discuss changes in your business and how they affect your coverage.

It is advised that one insures against things one wouldn’t be able to pay for on one’s own and speaks to insurance agents to determine what kinds of coverage make sense and compare terms and prices to figure out best deal.

<https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/launch-your-business/get-business-insurance>

Businesses may get a quote for and purchase a variety of different types of insurance from Nationwide, The Hartford, State Farm, Progressive, Geico and many more among other common insurance providers. For a detailed/in-depth look at what each company offers see their individual website:

<https://www.nationwide.com/business/insurance/>

<https://www.thehartford.com/small-business-insurance>

<https://www.statefarm.com/small-business-solutions/insurance>

<https://www.progressivecommercial.com/business-insurance/>

<https://www.geico.com/general-liability-insurance/>