

Overview

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Start-up Guide

Before starting your business, it helps to have a clear idea of what you need to do. Key questions you will need to ask include:

- Do you need to register your business? If yes, what business structure?
- Where will your business be located?
- What will your business name be?

GoBusiness Start-up Guide will walk you through the questions above and more.

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Register your business




If you're starting a business in Singapore, the first question to consider is whether you need to register it.

Anybody who intends to carry out any activity for profit on an ongoing basis **must register** a business with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA), **unless you meet the following criteria for exemption:**

- You use your full name, as per your NRIC, as your business name
- You and your partner(s) use your full names, as per your NRIC, as your business name

Do note that if you add descriptive words to your name (eg: Flowers by Tan Mei Ling), you must register the business. There are other exemptions from


registration and the full list can be found in the [Business Names Registration Act](#) .

Ready to start your business registration?



I want to register a Sole Proprietorship/Partnership

Reserve your business name and register your business entity on GoBusiness with guidance from the e-Adviser. If you do this, you do not need to apply on ACRA's BizFile+.

[Log in to apply via e-Adviser for Starting a Business](#) 



I want to register a Limited Partnership (LP), Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) or Local Company

Use this e-Adviser to find out next steps based on your business requirements. Registration can be done on ACRA's BizFile+.

[Go to e-Adviser for Starting a Business](#) 



I'm not sure which business structure to choose

Use this e-Adviser to get recommendations for a suitable business structure, based on your business requirements.

[Go to e-Adviser for Business Structure](#) 

Benefits of registering a business



There are several benefits of registering a business with ACRA. Here are some of them:

- **Legitimacy:** The public can easily verify information about your business and its owners. It also makes it easier for customers to identify, find and transact with your business.
- **Access:** Your business gets access to Government funding, such as Enterprise Singapore grants. You also get to participate in government

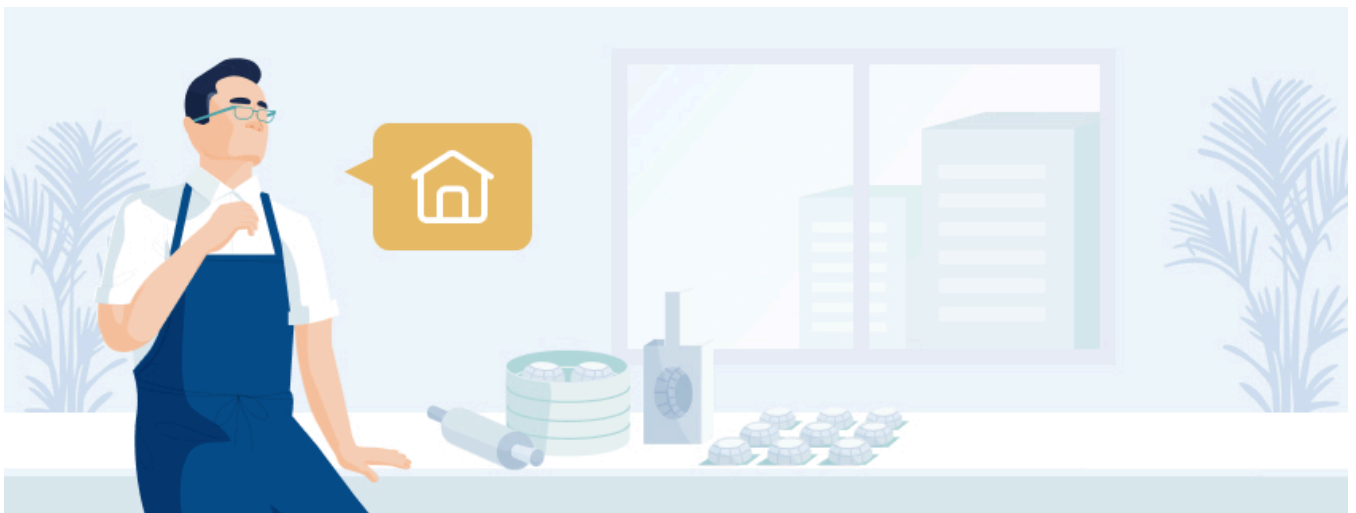
tenders and secure intellectual property or patents for new products and technology.

In addition, if you incorporate a company or set up a limited liability partnership, you enjoy:

- **Limited liability:** Your personal and business finances are kept separate. This means that in the event that your business is sued, your personal liabilities are limited and you do not risk losing your personal assets.

Limited liability does not apply to a sole proprietorship or partnership.

Carrying out a small-scale business from home



If you are thinking of starting a small-scale business from home, here's a step-by-step guide to help you.

Do note that Housing Development Board (HDB) flats and private residential properties are intended for residential use, and there are conditions and guidelines that need to be followed. Most importantly, the property must still be used for residential purposes and the business activity must be kept at a small scale to avoid causing disamenities to your neighbours.

Step 1: Determine your home business scheme

Find out which scheme best suits your intended business activity.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 2: Understand scheme's provisions and guidelines

Understand more about each scheme's requirements.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 3: Find out industry-specific guidelines

Read up on the regulations that are specific to your business sector or industry.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 4: Learn about taxes and government assistance

Learn the regulations involved and support schemes available for running a home-based business.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 5: Take your business further

Expanding your home-based business? Learn the next steps involved in taking your business further.

[Find Out More](#)

Key steps to start

Now that you know whether to register the business, here are 6 key steps to guide you:

Step 1: Choose a Business Structure

Learn about the different business structures and find out which one best suits your business.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 2: Choose a Business Address

Register an address where you carry out your business.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 3: Reserve Your Business Name

Decide on your business name, then check if there are similar business names, and if it's available as a domain name or social media username.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 4: Register Your Business

Learn more about what you need to register your business, depending on the business structure you've chosen at Step 1.

[Find Out More](#)

Step 5: Register a Corppass Administrator

Use your Corppass Administrator account to manage your business' digital transactions with the Government.

[Find Out More](#)


Step 6: Open a Corporate Bank Account

Understand the benefits and requirements of opening a corporate bank account.

[Find Out More](#)

After you've taken these steps, find out what you can do next to continue running and growing your business with these [next steps](#).

Setup cost calculator

Get an estimate of how much it costs to start and run a business in Singapore with our [Setup Cost Calculator](#) .