



# Business License Checklist

If you have a printed copy of this checklist, access it online to open the various links below by visiting this URL: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/BusinessLicenseChecklist>

Please complete the items in the checklist below to obtain a Business License to operate in the City of Fairfax. All items under the same step number can be completed simultaneously. Please also view the [Business License Flowchart](#) that accompanies this checklist.

If you have questions, please contact the appropriate City department as identified below. Suite numbers indicate where in City Hall the respective Departments can be found. For general inquiries about the process, please contact the Development Review Ombudsperson: [Tommy.Scibilia@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:Tommy.Scibilia@fairfaxva.gov) | 571-546-5115

✓	Step	Item	Instructions	Department	Suite #	Phone	Email
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Apply for a <b>Business License</b>	<a href="#">Portal</a>	Revenue	224	703-385-7884	<a href="mailto:Revenue@fairfaxva.gov">Revenue@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Apply for a <b>Commercial Use &amp; Occupancy Permit</b> or <b>Minor Home Occupation Permit</b> <sup>A</sup>	<a href="#">Guide (CUO)</a> <a href="#">Guide (MHO)</a>	Zoning	207	703-385-7820	<a href="mailto:Zoning@fairfaxva.gov">Zoning@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Apply for a <b>Building Permit</b> <sup>B</sup>	<a href="#">Guide</a>	Code	208	703-385-7830	<a href="mailto:CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov">CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Apply for <b>Trade Permits</b> <sup>B</sup>	<a href="#">Guide</a>	Code	208	703-385-7830	<a href="mailto:CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov">CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Apply for a <b>Zoning Permit</b> <sup>C</sup>	<a href="#">Guide</a>	Zoning	207	703-385-7820	<a href="mailto:Zoning@fairfaxva.gov">Zoning@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Apply for <b>BAR Approval</b> <sup>D</sup>	<a href="#">Guide</a>	Zoning	207	703-385-7820	<a href="mailto:Zoning@fairfaxva.gov">Zoning@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Pass <b>Building and Trade Inspections</b> <sup>B</sup>	<a href="#">Webpage</a>	Code	208	703-385-7830	<a href="mailto:CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov">CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Pass <b>Fire Prevention Code (FPC) Inspection</b> <sup>E</sup>	<a href="#">Webpage</a>	Code	208	703-385-7830	<a href="mailto:CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov">CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Pass Fire Marshal <b>Use Inspection</b> <sup>E</sup>	<a href="#">Webpage</a>	Code	208	703-385-7830	<a href="mailto:CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov">CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<b>** Receive Business License and Commercial Use &amp; Occupancy Permit **</b>							
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Apply for a <b>Sign Permit</b> (optional)	<a href="#">Guide</a>	Zoning	207	703-385-7820	<a href="mailto:Zoning@fairfaxva.gov">Zoning@fairfaxva.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Request a <b>Ribbon Cutting</b> (optional)	<a href="#">Webpage</a>	Economic Development	10300 Eaton Pl <sup>F</sup>	703-293-1631	<a href="mailto:Contact@fairfaxcityecondev.org">Contact@fairfaxcityecondev.org</a>

## Notes:

- The linked guide is for Commercial Use & Occupancy Permits, which are required for most commercial and retail business uses. Minor Home Occupations, such as home-based business offices, home kitchen production for commercial sales, or limited student instruction require a type of Zoning Permit called a Residential Accessory Use Permit for a Minor Home Occupation. Apply for this on the [Permit Portal](#). More intensive home-based businesses may require a Special Use Permit. Contact Zoning for more info. In-home daycares have a distinct set of requirements. There are separate checklists for those depending on the number of children being cared for: [4 or fewer children](#) or [5-12 children](#).
- Building and Trade Permits are not always required. Construction or a change in use can necessitate the need for a permit. For more information or if you have questions, visit our [Permit FAQs page](#) or contact Code Administration with the info provided above.
- A Zoning Permit is not always needed. It is typically required if a Building Permit is needed for construction. If a Zoning Permit is needed, you will be contacted by staff following submission of your Building Permit.
- Architectural approval is required if you plan to make exterior improvements to your business that are visible from public places. This approval must be secured before a Zoning Permit can be issued. If your business is located in the Old Town Fairfax Historic District, or the surrounding Transition District, signage must also be approved. The [Zoning Map](#) delineates these overlay districts.
- You will be contacted by Code Administration if FPC or Use inspections are needed. For more information on when these inspections are required, visit our [Inspections Info page](#).
- Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED) is not located in City Hall. They are located in the WillowWood Plaza office complex at 10300 Eaton Place, suite 235.