

## **How to Start a Courier Service (Checklist)**

1.	Determine whether starting a courier service is the right option for you.
	☐ Understand the business and the risks involved.
	☐ Use your own vehicle to deliver packages before expanding your business.
	☐ Start your client base with friends and family.
	☐ Speak to people who have started their own courier service and learn from them.
2.	Write a business plan.
	□ Outline the structure, objectives, goals, and mission statement of your business.
	□ Establish your start-up costs and equipment needs.
	□ Determine the services you will offer and decide how much you will charge.
	□ Conduct market and client research.
	□ Plan your financial strategy with outlines of your start-up costs and projected profits and losses.
	□ Outline your marketing strategy.
3.	Take care of the legal requirements.
	☐ Get a business account and credit card.
	□ Choose a legal structure.
	□ Register for taxes and receive your EIN.
	☐ Check and apply for any town, country, and state licensing and insurance



	requirements.
	☐ Ensure that all your couriers have valid driver's licenses or commercial licenses.
4.	Outline your finances.
	☐ Determine whether your staff require additional training or qualifications.
	☐ Budget for tools and vehicle maintenance costs.
	□ Research top suppliers and budget for inventory.
	□ Look for office and/or storage space.
	□ Budget for business licenses and insurance costs.
	□ Set aside funds for marketing needs.
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J.	Buy business insurance (not all the following are necessary).
	☐ Business insurance.
	□ Vehicle insurance.
	☐ General liability insurance.
	□ Public liability insurance.
	□ Workers' compensation.
	□ Equipment insurance.
	☐ Income protection insurance.
	□ Critical illness insurance.
	□ Business life insurance.
6.	Create a website and business portfolio.
	☐ Build a great website.
	□ Create social media pages.



	☐ Set rates for standard, overnight, and express courier services.
	□ Consider special rates for regular clients and large consignments.
	□ Research your competitors' rates.
	☐ Implement invoicing and payment software, as well as fleet-tracking software.
В.	Market your business.
	□ Determine your target audience.
	□ Design a creative logo.
	□ Advertise on social media with links to your website.
	□ Create a mailing list.
	□ Create opening specials and use various techniques to spread them.

7. Set your rates.