

## **How to Open a Retail Store (Checklist)**

1. Do Market Research □		
a. Survey consumers $\square$		
b. Research economic studies $\square$		
c. Study competitors $\square$		
d. Analyze the demographics of your target market $\square$		
e. Pass out samples $\square$		
2. Create a Business Plan □		
a. Executive summary $\square$		
b. Business description $\square$		
c. Market analysis $\square$		
d. Organization management $\square$		
e. Sales strategy $\square$		
f. Funding needs $\square$		
g. Financial projections $\square$		
3. Secure Financing □		
a. Attract investors $\square$		
i. Sell equity in your business $\square$		
ii. Secure a private loan from friends or family $\hfill\Box$		
b. Apply for a loan $\square$		
i. Meet with a lender $\square$		
ii. Fill out the application form $\square$		
iii. Provide collateral and your credit history $\Box$		

	iv. Sign a loan agreement after approval $\Box$		
4. Create a Legal Entity □			
	a. Choose your legal structure $\square$		
	b. Register with your State $\square$		
	c. Get an Employer Identification Number (EIN) $\square$		
5. Find Office/Retail Space □			
	a. Determine if you really need a space $\hfill\Box$		
	b. Calculate costs □		
	i. Find out what's in your budget $\square$		
	ii. Total utilities □		
	iii. Total technology costs $\square$		
	iv. Total rent and maintenance $\square$		
	c. Shop around $\square$		
6. Purchase Insurance □			
	a. Find out what type of insurance your business needs $\hfill\Box$		
	b. Find a provider or agent $\square$		
	c. Purchase a policy $\square$		
7. Hire	e Employees □		
	a. Write a job description $\square$		
	b. Post on a job board $\square$		
	c. Review applications and resumes $\hfill\Box$		
	d. Interview candidates $\square$		
	e. Check references $\square$		
	f. Send a job offer $\square$		
	g. Fill out the mandatory IRS forms $\square$		



8. Develop Business Relationships		
a. Join	a chamber of commerce or business association $\hfill\Box$	
b. Atte	end networking events □	
c. Ask	for meetings with suppliers $\square$	
9. Brand and	Advertise	
a. Craf	t your brand $\square$	
	i. Write an elevator pitch $\square$	
	ii. Find out who your customers are $\hfill\Box$	
	iii. Decide what kind of brand personality you want to have $\hfill\Box$	
	iv. Determine what you want people to associate your brand with $\hfill\Box$	
b. Connect with customers through advertising $\hfill\Box$		
	i. Set up email marketing software $\hfill\Box$	
	ii. Set up SMS marketing software $\hfill\Box$	
	iii. Create social media accounts for your business $\hfill\Box$	