

Starting from Scratch - Your New Business

1. Pick a Name

There are four parts to deciding a name for your new business.

- Be sure the name is not being used by another business in Alaska
 - Use the states [Business License Search Tool](#)
- Be sure the name (trademark) is not used by another business in the USA, within the same industry.
 - Use the [trademark search tool](#)
 - And Alaska's [trademark search tool](#)
- Check that the domain is available for purchase
 - I recommend using [Cloudflare](#) for this. (You will need to make a free account).

2. Choose the Structure

This part is confusing, complicated and there are many opinions..

If you will be operating as the **sole owner**, and it's just a **local service** business: You will probably want a Member Managed LLC. It's going to be the least complex. You can talk to a tax attorney and/or CPA for better guidance, but this is generally the route to go.

Here is a [decent breakdown from legalzoom](#)

3. Get licensed with State

Now that you have done the hard stuff, now it's just a matter of answering questions!

Purchase your license from the state - [AK Business Licensing](#)

4. File Articles of Organization

Next, you have to file articles of organization on the states [Online Filing Page](#)

Note: Be sure to save a copy of this

5. Get your EIN Number for IRS

Last step here, get your EIN number [from the IRS](#)

Note: Be sure to save a copy of your EIN paperwork. You CAN NOT get another copy later.

6. Get City/Municipality business license

Wherever you are going to be performing work, (city/borough/municipality) you will need to get a license. Go into their local office with the above paperwork and they can help you determine which licenses you will need.

7. Accounting/Finance

You will want a relationship with an accounting firm. They can help with as much or little as needed typically but here are some things you will probably want to look for:

- Bookkeeping
- Tax filings
- Tax planning
- Payroll
- Maybe more..

There are many companies.. here is one I have heard a lot of good about:

[Count on Accounting - Business Consulting and Tax](#)

Note: You should seek proper legal advice from a license professional for specific business planning and finance needs. But I hope this outline helps!