

Barber Startup Checklist

A quick guide for new barbers preparing to start cutting professionally.

Licensing Basics for New Barbers

- Complete your state-required barber training program.
- Pass the state barber licensing exam.
- Apply for your official barber license.
- If opening a shop, register the business with your state or county.
- Ensure your shop meets health and sanitation regulations.

Equipment Needed to Start Cutting Professionally

- Professional hair clippers
- T-blade trimmer for line-ups
- Barber shears
- Clipper guard set
- Barber combs and brushes
- Hair cutting cape
- Sanitizing spray or disinfectant
- Mirror and basic workstation setup

Mistakes New Barbers Should Avoid

- Underpricing haircuts when starting out.
- Not keeping tools clean and sanitized.
- Failing to build relationships with repeat clients.
- Not tracking income and daily cuts.
- Ignoring appointment scheduling and time management.

Tip: Professional barbers succeed by combining skill, consistency, and strong client relationships.