

# Texas Security Company Startup Checklist

Everything you need to launch a licensed guard company in Texas, from company representative to first contract.

## 1. Decide & plan

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- Decide which services you'll offer (guards, patrol, events, etc.)
- Decide armed vs. unarmed
- Sketch a simple business plan and startup budget

## 2. Company representative & licensing

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- Confirm your company representative meets the DPS experience requirement (3 yrs, incl. 1 in management)
- Complete fingerprinting via IdentoGo (DPS + FBI background check)
- Study for and pass the 2-hour company representative exam

## 3. Set up the business

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- Choose and clear a company name (and grab the domain)
- Form your entity (corporation or LLC) with the Texas Secretary of State
- Get a federal EIN and open a business bank account
- Obtain your local city/county business license

## 4. Insurance & finances

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- Buy general liability insurance (\$100,000/occurrence, \$200,000 aggregate minimum)
- Set up workers' comp (optional in TX but recommended) and commercial auto if you run patrol
- Set up payroll and overtime tracking

## 5. Get licensed & staffed

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- Submit the company license application via TOPS and pay the \$412 fee
- Recruit your first guards
- Ensure each officer completes Level II training (6 hrs; Level III + firearm if armed)
- Confirm every officer is registered with DPS before their first shift

## 6. Run & grow

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- Set defensible bill rates and a proposal template
- Pitch your first local clients and sign your first contract
- Set up scheduling, GPS clock-in, checkpoints, and reporting software