Start Your Business As A Heating Engineer In The UK

FREE Checklist

This checklist breaks down the process of starting your own heating engineering business into three phases: Preparation, Registration, and Trading.

Phase 1: Preparation (Setting the Stage)

- ☐ **Check Qualifications:**
  - ☐ Verify Gas Safe registration (re-register if previously under an employer).
  - ☐ Consider additional qualifications (HETAS, OFTEC) for expanded service offerings.
- ☐ **Create a Business Plan:**
  - ☐ Define products/services offered.
  - ☐ Identify your competitive advantage (specialization?).
  - ☐ Determine target market (residential, commercial, industrial).
  - ☐ Define business operations (service area, callouts, appointments).
  - ☐ Set pricing for services.
  - ☐ Estimate required equipment and funding.
  - ☐ Outline funding strategy.
  - ☐ Develop a customer acquisition plan.
- ☐ **Estimate Startup Costs:**
  - ☐ Training/Qualifications (e.g., NVQ Level 2/3: £2,000-£8,000)
  - ☐ Tools & Equipment (Basic & Specialized: £2,000+)
  - ☐ Vehicle (Purchase or Lease) + Insurance + Road Tax
  - ☐ Business Insurance (Public Liability, Professional Indemnity, Van)
  - ☐ Accounting/Bookkeeping (Software)
  - ☐ Marketing/Advertising (Website, Business Cards)
  - ☐ Uniform/PPE
- ☐ **Consider Funding Options:**
  - ☐ Personal savings/loans
  - ☐ Government schemes/grants
  - ☐ Investors
  - ☐ Business loans
  - ☐ Consult with an accountant.

Phase 2: Registration (Official Setup)

- ☐ **Decide on Company Structure:**
  - ☐ Sole Trader (Simpler, direct tax through Self-Assessment)
  - ☐ Limited Company (More complex, separate legal entity, tax benefits)
- ☐ **Choose a Business Name:**
  - ☐ Check name availability on Companies House (if setting up as a Limited Company)
- ☐ **Register Your Business:**
  - ☐ **Sole Trader:** Register with HMRC for Self-Assessment (get UTR).
  - ☐ **Limited Company:**
    - ☐ Have a registered business address.
    - ☐ Appoint directors.
    - ☐ Appoint shareholders and assign shares.
    - ☐ Create memorandum and articles of association.
    - ☐ Complete the application and pay the fee to Companies House (get registration certificate and company number).
    - ☐ Consider using a company formation agent.

Phase 3: Trading (Promotion and Operations)

- ☐ **Get a Website:**
  - ☐ Showcase services and contact information.
  - ☐ List on Gas Safe and other accreditation websites.
  - ☐ Consider using a free website builder if budget-conscious.
- ☐ **Get Testimonials and Reviews:**
  - ☐ Encourage clients to leave reviews on social media (Facebook) and review websites (TrustPilot, Checkatrade).
- ☐ **See Business4Beginners for more advice**