Learn how to avoid common small business fines.

Set out waste neatly and at the right time for hauling, and post private carter decal
Avoid $100 - $300 fine
Post your waste hauler’s decal and schedule on your window, and keep a copy of its contract on site. Set out trash (black bags or covered bins), recyclables (bundled, covered bins, or clear plastic bags) within 2 hours of a daytime pickup, or within 1 hour of your closing for nighttime pickup.
on.nyc.gov/infocollectwaste

Sweep sidewalk and gutter
Avoid $100 - $300 fine
Clean your sidewalk and the first 1.5 feet into the street.
on.nyc.gov/infosidewalks

Keep sidewalks clear of items
Avoid $100 - $300 fine
You cannot have sidewalk signs. Some streets allow product displays within 3 feet of the building, and less than 5 feet tall (check to see if your street prohibits displays). All sales must happen inside.
on.nyc.gov/infocollectwaste

Renew Registration or Certificate to Operate
Avoid $350 - $875 fine
If you have a boiler or hot-water heater, or equipment like dry-cleaning machines that cause emissions, you need an up-to-date credential.
on.nyc.gov/aircodeforms

Install and maintain backflow preventer
Avoid $500 - $1,000 fine
If you use chemicals or substances that could get into the public water supply, you need to have a licensed contractor install and annually test all backflow preventers at your water service lines. Many kitchens, doctors’ offices, and manufacturers must have them.
on.nyc.gov/sidedbackflow

Renew your Certificate of Fitness
Avoid $750 - $1,000 fine
To store or handle hazardous materials, you need an up-to-date certificate of fitness and your business needs a permit from FDNY.
on.nyc.gov/fitfood

Print clear receipts
Avoid $50 - $500 fine
Receipts must show your business name and address, items and prices, subtotal, tax, total amount paid, date of purchase, and your NYC number (if your business is a licensee).
on.nyc.gov/10things

Show payment and refund policies
Avoid $50 - $500 fine
Post any limits you impose on debit or credit card use, and post your refund terms – even if your terms are that you accept no refunds at all.
on.nyc.gov/10things

Show prices
Avoid $25 - $250 fine (Product)
Avoid $50 - $500 fine (Service)
Post prices for each item you sell or service you provide.
on.nyc.gov/10things

Clean floors, walls, and ceilings
Avoid $200 fine
Make sure you clean all floors – including under the stoves, sinks and cupboards.
on.nyc.gov/dohbluebook

Keep prepared food at the correct temperature or for a limited time before serving
Avoid $250 - $600 fine
Watch a 2.5 min video to learn how to monitor and label prepared food to hold it safely.
on.nyc.gov/videofoodtemp

Remove pests and pest-friendly conditions
Avoid $200 - $350 fine
Repair holes in walls or ductwork, and keep trash cans covered.
on.nyc.gov/dohbluebook

Set up fire safety systems
Avoid $500 - $1,000 fine
Fire extinguishers must be annually serviced by an FDNY certified company and monthly visual checks should be performed by you. Sprinklers and standpipes require inspections and testing. For commercial kitchens, duct and hood systems must be maintained at least every 90 days by an FDNY certified company.
on.nyc.gov/infosafety

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on.nyc.gov/infocollectwaste

Ready for a violation?
You may be able to correct the problem without being fined. You can also appeal or pay.
on.nyc.gov/infocorrections

What about other rules?
Take 10 minutes to tell us about your business and get a custom list of laws that matter to you.
on.nyc.gov/wizard

Call 311 or visit
on.nyc.gov/bizconsult
to schedule a FREE on-site compliance consultation.
on.nyc.gov/topviolations

IF YOU HEAT, SPRAY, OR EMIT

IF YOU USE OR STORE CHEMICALS

IF YOU SERVE FOOD OR DRINKS

on.nyc.gov/10things

on.nyc.gov/videofoodtemp