

Drone Photography Business Startup Checklist

- Purchase a reliable drone with at least 4K video and stabilized gimbal (e.g., DJI Air 2S, Mini 4 Pro).
- Buy at least 2-3 extra batteries and a multi-battery charger.
- Get high-speed microSD cards (U3 or V30 class recommended).
- Purchase ND filters and a padded hard case or backpack.
- Choose and install editing software (Lightroom, Premiere Pro, or DaVinci Resolve).
- Register your drone with the FAA if it weighs over 0.55 lbs.
- Study for and pass the FAA Part 107 exam for commercial operations.
- Print and carry your FAA Remote Pilot Certificate during jobs.
- Purchase liability and hull insurance for your drone operations.
- Register your business name and secure a matching domain.
- Create a simple website or portfolio to showcase your aerial work.
- Develop service packages and pricing for different client types.
- Prepare a basic service contract and invoice template.
- Set up an invoicing tool (Wave, HoneyBook, QuickBooks).
- Create an Instagram or TikTok business page to post aerial content regularly.
- Join local Facebook groups or drone forums to network and find clients.