

Build-Out Checklist

Express · Neighborhood · Destination

FishNChips — Born in Texas. Every task from signed agreement to grand opening, in order, with owners and target weeks. Print it, tick it, open on time.

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

Section A applies to every format. Then work the section for the format you have signed. Franchise fees: **Express \$35,000 · Neighborhood \$50,000–\$75,000 · Destination \$99,000–\$125,000**. Build-out is additional and worked through franchise, approximately **\$250–\$500 per sq ft** depending on site condition and design choices. All formats: 6% royalty, 2% brand marketing fund, technology \$199–\$299 per month.

SECTION A

Core path — all formats

Typical duration: 10–12 weeks for Express, 12–16 weeks for Neighborhood, 16–22 weeks for Destination.

DONE	TASK	OWNER	TARGET
	Signed franchise agreement returned and franchise fee paid	Franchisee	Week 0
	Form your entity, EIN, business bank account, insurance quotes	Franchisee	Week 1
	Territory confirmed and site criteria packet reviewed with us	Joint	Week 1
	Site shortlist submitted (photos, dimensions, rent, hood/utility notes)	Franchisee	Week 1–2
	Site approval issued by franchisor	Franchisor	Week 2
	Lease / license agreement executed	Franchisee	Week 2–3
	Equipment package ordered through approved vendor list	Joint	Week 3
	Health department plan review, permits, grease and hood approvals	Franchisee	Week 3–5
	POS, menu boards, online ordering and tech stack provisioned (\$199–\$299/mo)	Franchisor	Week 4

DONE	TASK	OWNER	TARGET
	Branding order placed: signage, packaging, paper plates, uniforms	Joint	Week 4
	Fryer, filtration, refrigeration and hood installed and certified	Contractor	Week 6+
	Fish, produce and dry goods supplier accounts opened	Franchisee	Week 6
	Hiring complete: crew, shift lead, opening manager	Franchisee	Week 7
	Operator training at a certified FishNChips kitchen (5 days)	Franchisor	Week 7–8
	In-store crew training, recipe certification, fry-timing calibration	Joint	Pre-open –2 wk
	Final inspection, punch list cleared, certificate of occupancy	Joint	Pre-open –1 wk
	Friends-and-family soft open, throughput and ticket-time test	Joint	Pre-open –3 days
	Grand opening marketing: local digital, delivery apps, launch kit	Joint	Open week

SECTION B

FORMAT
Express

FRANCHISE FEE

\$35,000

250–400 sq ft

Gas stations, food courts and cloud kitchens. Smallest footprint, packaging-led service, fastest path to open — often inside an existing hood.

Format-specific tasks (in addition to Section A)

DONE	TASK	OWNER	TARGET
	Confirm 250–400 sq ft footprint with fryer wall and pickup window	Joint	Week 1
	Host agreement with gas station / food court / cloud kitchen operator	Franchisee	Week 2
	Verify existing hood, gas line capacity and grease interceptor access	Contractor	Week 2–3
	Compact line: 2-vat fryer, filtration, breading station, undercounter reach-in	Joint	Week 3
	Digital menu board plus lightbox sign sized to host's sign policy	Joint	Week 4
	Delivery-app onboarding and pickup shelf layout	Franchisor	Week 5
	Packaging-only service model confirmed: FRESHBOX, bags, paper plates	Franchisee	Week 5
	Single-operator open/close routine documented and rehearsed	Joint	Pre-open –1 wk

Notes

SECTION C

FORMAT Neighborhood

FRANCHISE FEE

\$50,000–\$75,000

500–700 sq ft

Retail strips and end-caps with a small dining room. Full kitchen build, dine-in standards, community-first launch.

Format-specific tasks (in addition to Section A)

DONE	TASK	OWNER	TARGET
	Confirm 500–700 sq ft end-cap with 12–20 seats and visible storefront	Joint	Week 1
	Landlord work letter, tenant improvement allowance and sign criteria	Franchisee	Week 2
	Architect drawings from franchisor prototype kit; MEP engineered	Joint	Week 3–4
	New hood, make-up air, 3-vat fryer battery and holding station	Contractor	Week 5–7
	Dining room: counter, booth run, hand-wash, restroom compliance	Contractor	Week 6–8
	Exterior channel-letter sign, window graphics, patio permit if applicable	Joint	Week 8
	Front-of-house training: order taking, salad prep, table touch standards	Joint	Pre-open –2 wk
	Neighborhood launch plan: school, church and employer outreach list	Joint	Pre-open –2 wk

Notes

SECTION D

FORMAT Destination

FRANCHISE FEE

\$99,000–\$125,000

600–900 sq ft

Main street, downtown and drive-thru capable sites. Longest permitting path, largest kitchen, highest volume ceiling.

Format-specific tasks (in addition to Section A)

DONE	TASK	OWNER	TARGET
	Confirm 600–900 sq ft downtown / main-street or drive-thru capable pad	Joint	Week 1
	Traffic, stacking and drive-thru variance review with the city	Franchisee	Week 2–4
	Full architectural set, historic or downtown design review submission	Joint	Week 3–6
	Drive-thru lane, order point, headsets and pickup window build	Contractor	Week 7–10
	Expanded kitchen: 4-vat fryer battery, dual filtration, walk-in cooler	Contractor	Week 8–11
	Feature interior: Texas map wall, oak millwork, enamel accent details	Contractor	Week 10–12
	Blade sign, monument sign and night-lighting package permitted	Joint	Week 11
	Two-manager staffing model, catering and large-order program setup	Joint	Pre-open –2 wk
	Regional launch: press, radio, opening-week event, community partner	Joint	Open week

Notes

NEXT STEP

Let's walk your site together.

Send us your format, city and target square footage through the enquiry form on the franchise page and we will come back with a site checklist marked up for your actual space, a build-out estimate range, and the opening calendar. Fresh food, Texan warmth, honest numbers.

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