

Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation

In accordance with executive order [20-14](#), the Department of Business Regulation is providing the following list of critical and non-critical retail businesses. For questions on these guidelines, please submit your questions online to the Department of Business Regulation using the web form available at <https://dbr.ri.gov/critical/>. You may also call the Department of Business Regulation at 401-889-5550.

Critical retail businesses include:

- Food and beverage stores (e.g. supermarkets; liquor, specialty food, bodega and convenience stores; farmers' markets; food banks and pantries)
- Pharmacies and medical supply stores, compassion centers
- Pet supply stores
- Printing shops, mail and delivery stores and operations, office supply
- Gas stations
- Laundromats and drycleaners
- Electronics and telecommunications stores
- Industrial, construction, agricultural/seafood equipment and supply stores, hardware stores, general power equipment
- Funeral homes
- Auto repair and supply
- Banks and credit unions
- Firearms stores
- Healthcare and public safety professional uniform stores
- And other stores and businesses identified as critical by the Department of Business Regulation.

Non-critical retail businesses include:

- Arts & crafts stores
- Florists
- Furniture stores (by appointment only)
- Car and other motor vehicle dealerships (except for auto repair and by appointment only)
- Music stores
- Billiard stores
- Sporting goods stores
- Home furnishings stores
- Book stores
- Departments stores
- Gift stores
- Beauty supply stores
- Second-hand/consignment stores

- Shoe stores
- Clothing stores
- Jewelry stores
- Bike shops (service and repair permitted)
- Pool Stores (service and repair permitted)
- Landscape & Garden centers (Commercial clients: By appointment only, pick up and delivery permitted. Regular customers: pick up and delivery only)

Additional guidance:

- Restaurants and bars may continue to operate only for pickup, drive-through, and delivery as per the Governor's Executive Order 20-04.
- All critical retail employers are required to implement social distancing guidelines (available at https://dbr.ri.gov/documents/Grocer_Guidelines_eng.pdf) and to work from home to the extent possible, as discussed in executive order 20-09.
- Executive order [20-14](#) required non-critical *retail* businesses to close at this time. Service-based businesses were not the subject of this executive order. Please note that a retail business usually *sells* things, whereas a service-based business usually *does* things. However, we do advise you to consult the other executive orders, including 20-15, as recreation, entertainment, and other close-contact service businesses are subject to restrictions and closures.
- We have received many inquiries for these *service*-based businesses. At this time, the following businesses are not considered to be retail operations, and are therefore, permitted to be open:
 - o Dog Groomers, dog day care, dog walkers
 - o All construction related activities
 - o Self storage
 - o Marinas
 - o Car washes
- Financial services offered by pawn shops and payday lenders are allowed to continue. In-person retail at pawn shops would be considered non-critical and closed.
- For stores that are mixed retail and service, general retail with customers coming in and out of your store is not permitted.
- For non-critical retail stores, although in-person retail sales are not allowed, retailers may continue to receive and ship orders made by phone or online. Additionally, you may offer curbside pick-up or delivery that follows all social distancing and sanitation guidelines.
- The State of RI has not deemed ANY business essential or non-essential at this time. There are no documents or certifications to travel for businesses across state lines.

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