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EBOOK

Start a Barbing Shop

From clippers to a busy barbershop — equipment, start-up costs, hygiene, haircut basics, pricing, staff and marketing

nglancer.com

For barbers, apprentices & investors

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Contents

Why barbing 4

Chapter 1 — Location and shop set-up 4

Chapter 2 — Equipment list and start-up costs 5

Chapter 3 — Hygiene and client safety (non-negotiable) 6

Chapter 4 — Haircut basics 7

Chapter 5 — Services, prices and the menu 9

Chapter 6 — Staff: hiring and paying barbers 10

Chapter 7 — Records and cash control 11

Chapter 8 — Marketing and customer experience 11

Chapter 9 — Registration and rules 12

Chapter 10 — Your 60-day launch plan 12

A final word 13

Why barbing

Men and boys cut their hair every one to three weeks. That makes barbing one of the most **regular, recession-resistant** services in Nigeria. A good barber with a clean shop, steady power and great customer service can build hundreds of loyal clients.

What makes a barbershop succeed:

- **Skill** — clean, consistent cuts
- **Hygiene** — sterilised tools every time
- **Power** — no "NEPA has taken light" excuses
- **Location** — where men pass, wait or live
- **Experience** — friendly service, good music or TV, short waiting times
- **Records** — knowing your daily income and where the money goes

CHAPTER 1

Location and shop set-up

Choose the right location

- Near busy streets, junctions, markets, estates, campuses, offices or bus stops
- Visible from the road with space for a clear signboard
- Safe, with reasonable rent and a landlord who allows your signage and generator/inverter
- Not right beside three other barbershops — unless you'll be clearly better

Space and layout (one to three chairs)

- About 10–20 square metres is enough to start
- Each chair needs a mirror, a shelf/station for tools, a socket and space to move around
- A waiting area with seats, fan or AC, and TV or music
- A small wash basin (for hair wash, beard care and handwashing) with water supply
- Good bright lighting over each chair

- A covered bin, broom and dustpan, and a place to keep clean towels

CHAPTER 2

Equipment list and start-up costs

Equipment checklist

- ☐ Professional clippers (at least two per chair — one may be charging or being cleaned)
- ☐ Trimmers/edgers for line-ups
- ☐ Clipper guards (attachments) and spare blades
- ☐ Barber chair(s) that recline and adjust in height
- ☐ Mirrors, stations/shelves
- ☐ Sterilising equipment: UV sterilising cabinet and/or disinfectant jar, clipper spray, alcohol, cleaning brushes
- ☐ Capes and neck strips; clean towels
- ☐ Combs, brushes, neck duster, spray bottle
- ☐ Hand mirror for clients
- ☐ Hair and beard products: aftershave, beard oil, dye (if offered), shaving gel, powder
- ☐ Power: inverter with batteries or solar, plus a generator as backup
- ☐ Fan or AC, TV/sound system
- ☐ Signboard and price list
- ☐ First-aid kit and fire extinguisher

Start-up cost worksheet (example — get current quotes)

Item	Example cost
Shop rent (1 year, plus agent/legal fees)	₦900,000
Renovation, painting, lighting, wiring	₦350,000
2 barber chairs	₦400,000
Mirrors and stations	₦150,000

Item	Example cost
Clippers and trimmers (4 + 2)	₦280,000
Sterilising cabinet, disinfectants, tools	₦90,000
Inverter + batteries or solar set	₦900,000
Generator (backup)	₦250,000
Fan, TV, sound	₦250,000
Signboard, flyers, launch promo	₦120,000
Products and consumables (first month)	₦60,000
Working capital (3 months of running costs)	₦450,000
Total	**₦4,200,000**

These are **illustrations only** — costs vary widely by city and quality. You can start smaller: one chair, refurbished equipment, a shared space or rented chair in an existing salon, and grow from profit.

> 💡 **TIP**
> Power is your biggest ongoing headache. An inverter or solar set costs more upfront but saves heavily on fuel compared with running a generator all day — and clients prefer a quiet shop.

CHAPTER 3

Hygiene and client safety (non-negotiable)

Clippers and razors can nick the skin. Blood on a tool can carry infections such as **hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV** from one client to the next if tools aren't cleaned and disinfected properly. A clean shop protects your clients, your staff and your name.

After every client

- [ ] Brush hair off the clipper blades and guards

End of the free sample

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