PROTECT THE BUSINESS

Simple risk assessment table

Name _____ Business _____ Date _____

You will finish with
The amount of loss your business can carry, and a decision for each of your top 3 risks: handle, reduce, save for, or ask about cover.

Do this first
Protect the Business, Lesson 1: What Could Stop Your Business Tomorrow? Its worksheet gives you your top 3 risks and the total cost of risk 1, which you score here.

Small losses you can pay and recover from quickly are fine to handle yourself. A loss that could stop income for weeks is not.

1. Know what you can carry

Your **risk tolerance** is how big a loss the business can pay for and recover from without serious trouble. For savings, you can use the money you wrote on your risk checklist, if it has not changed.

Money I could use for a loss

Source	Amount (R)
Savings or emergency money now (e.g. R3 000)	
Profit I could spare from one normal month (e.g. R2 000)	
Total I can carry	

Savings + Spare profit = Total I can carry: R _____

2. Score your top 3 risks

Copy your top 3 risks from the **Business risk and asset protection checklist**. For risk 1, use the total cost you worked out there. For risks 2 and 3, add repair or replacement cost and lost income.

Likelihood means how likely it is to happen in the next year: Low, Medium or High.

My risks

Risk	Likelihood (L / M / H)	Total cost (R)	Days to recover	Can I carry it? (Total cost less than Total I can carry: Yes / No)
1.				
2.				
3.				

This resource is for educational purposes only. It is not tax, legal or financial advice. Rules and requirements can differ by business type and location. Check with the relevant authority or a qualified adviser for your situation.

TIP

Days matter too

If work would stop for more than 2 weeks, mark "No" even if you could pay the cost. Customers may not wait.

3. Choose a response

Write one response next to each risk. Use the guide below.

Response guide

1. **Handle myself**: you can carry it, and it is unlikely.
2. **Reduce it**: you can carry it, but it happens often. Use better habits, locks, maintenance or checks.
3. **Save for it**: you cannot carry it yet, but you could save the gap within a few months.
4. **Ask about cover**: you cannot carry it, and saving would take too long. Take it to the **Insurance readiness conversation guide**.

My decisions

Risk	Response	First step (e.g. save R200 a week, buy a lock)
1.		
2.		
3.		

Next step

The first step I will take (from the table) _____

Who will do it _____

By when _____

When to redo this

Every 6 months, update the money you can carry and your decisions. As your savings grow, some risks you could not carry become ones you can handle yourself.

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