

# Registering a .CA domain name



## Things to know

- Many foreign companies use a .CA domain name to build goodwill and target consumers in Canada.
- All .CA domain names must be registered by individuals or companies that meet “Canadian Presence Requirements” — even if the domain name is being used only to re-direct internet traffic to another URL.
- Options for meeting the Canadian Presence Requirements include being:
  - A federally or provincially incorporated company (including a Canadian subsidiary of a foreign entity)
  - A Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
  - The holder of a trademark registered in Canada (but only where the domain name consists of or includes the exact word component of the registered trademark)
- You can’t assume that because you have a registered trademark or have registered a business name, another person would be prevented from registering a .CA domain name that includes the same mark or name.
- A .CA domain name can be registered for a term of one to ten years, and can be renewed for subsequent terms indefinitely as long as the registrant continues to meet the Canadian Presence Requirements.

### USEFUL RESOURCES

#### Canadian Internet Registration Authority

- [Canadian Presence Requirements](#)
- [Checking Domain Name Availability](#)
- [Finding a Registrar](#)
- [Registering Your Domain Name](#)

# Things to do

## CHECK AVAILABILITY

- You can find out if a domain name is available by using the [search function](#) provided by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA).

## CHOOSE A REGISTRAR

- All .CA domain names are registered through online retailers called Registrars – there are more than 150+ CIRA-certified Registrars to choose from.

## REGISTER YOUR DOMAIN NAME

- Because CIRA and Registrars only communicate (including for renewal notices) with the registrant and administrative contacts provided during the registration process, think twice before letting a third party, such as a marketing agency, register a domain name on your behalf and always ensure that registration information is up to date.

## RELATED TOPICS

- [Registering your trademarks](#)
- [Choosing, registering and protecting your corporate name](#)



## Need more info?

Contact us at [counsel@osler.com](mailto:counsel@osler.com)