

Prefer Going Solo? 5 Franchises That Don't Need Employees

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Always wanted to own your own business, but held off because you were weary of the headaches that can accompany hiring, paying and managing staff? You might find the perfect fit in these five franchise business models, all well-suited for franchise owners who are seeking to go into business solo.

America's Swimming Pool Company



The country's largest provider of swimming pool service and maintenance, America's Swimming Pool Co. (ASP) has 58 franchise locations spanning seven states. Founded on a commitment to superior swimming pool service and solutions, ASP serves both residential and commercial properties.

An ASP franchisee is not required to have any past experience in swimming pool service and the franchise owner can be the sole service provider. CEO Stewart Vernon said the qualities that make an ASP franchisee successful are having a business mind and service mentality.

Potentially one of the greatest testaments to the ASP franchise model is that none has ever failed. Vernon attributes this to ASP's commitment to franchisees to "act as their corporate backbone and provide the stability necessary to achieve success in the world of self-employment." Additionally, ASP provides dedicated training through "Pool School," which provides everything the franchisee needs to run the business. The total investment for a single ASP franchise ranges between \$50,000 to \$60,000, which includes the franchise fee and all necessary capital.

ASP fully discloses revenue numbers and the top and bottom producing locations. Vernon stated that the company is poised for its strongest growth yet in 2011, with plans to continually reinvest in its franchisees.