

Chapter 6

Alternatives to Baking at Home

If you don't have the proper space in your home or you're unable to meet the requirements of the city or health department, here are a few budget-friendly alternatives that might help you get the business started outside of your home. None of these ideas require the traditional renting or leasing of retail space. Consider approaching the following companies and organizations with your dilemma. They might be willing to share space with you at a low start-up cost and reasonable monthly rates until you're able to get a place of your own.

If you're able to work out an agreement with someone to share space, don't forget to put the agreement in writing. This agreement can be something very simple that outlines your working hours, use of the store's equipment, storage space for ingredients and supplies, bartering, if any, and the total cost of overhead. Don't forget signatures and dates. Written agreements can serve as friendly reminders to all parties involved.

RESTAURANTS

Restaurants that have a little extra working space or need additional operating funds might be willing to rent kitchen space and equipment during regular hours or after the restaurant closes. Restaurants usually have equipment (like mixers and commercial convection ovens) that you will most