START A BUSINESS - NEW HAMPSHIRE

How to open an auto repair shop in New Hampshire

Form the business and check local zoning: we found no state repair shop license, and there is no sales tax on parts or labor.

Sources verified 2026-11-21 - Updated 2026-11-21

1 Is a repair shop right for you?

Repair shops diagnose and fix vehicles, from maintenance and brakes to engines and collision repair. It suits experienced technicians who price fairly and keep good records.

2 Form the business (no sales tax to collect)

1. Choose a structure. LLCs file a Certificate of Formation (Form LLC-1) with the Secretary of State's Corporation Division ($100), stating the primary nature of the business.
2. No sales tax. New Hampshire has no general sales tax on goods, so you do not collect sales tax on parts or services. The meals and rentals tax applies only to meals, rooms and vehicle rentals.

3 Licenses

We found no New Hampshire State license for general repair or body shops. Check zoning, fire and building permits with your city or town before you lease a building. Technicians who service A/C for pay need EPA Section 609 certification.

4 Insurance

We found no state insurance minimum for repair shops; garage liability and garage keepers coverage for customers' vehicles protect your business. Ask an insurance professional.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business.
2. Confirm zoning with your town.
3. Buy insurance and equipment.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Form the business with the Secretary of State

Required - State - New Hampshire Secretary of State, Corporation Division

LLCs file a Certificate of Formation (Form LLC-1) with the Corporation Division, online or on paper. The certificate must state the primary nature of the business.

Fees: Form LLC-1: $100.

Official application: https://www.sos.nh.gov/corporations-0/forms-and-fees/limited-liability-companies

No general sales tax to collect

Optional - State - New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration

New Hampshire has no general sales tax on goods, so automotive businesses do not register to collect sales tax on parts or services. The meals and rentals tax applies only to meals, rooms and motor vehicle rentals.

If you rent vehicles to customers, ask the Department about the meals and rentals tax license.

No state repair shop license found; local zoning applies

Required in some cases - Municipal - Your city or town

We found no New Hampshire State license for general repair or body shops, and there is no general sales tax on parts or labor. Check zoning and local permits with your city or town before you lease a building.

EPA Section 609 certification for air conditioning work

Required in some cases - Federal - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Anyone who repairs or services a motor vehicle air conditioning system for payment or bartering must be certified by an EPA-approved Section 609 program.

Official agencies and links

Section 609 Technician Training and Certification Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
https://www.epa.gov/mvac/section-609-technician-training-and-certification-programs

Does New Hampshire have a sales tax?
New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration
https://www.revenue.nh.gov/faq/does-new-hampshire-have-sales-tax

Limited Liability Companies: forms and fees (Form LLC-1 Certificate of Formation)
New Hampshire Secretary of State, Corporation Division
https://www.sos.nh.gov/corporations-0/forms-and-fees/limited-liability-companies

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a license to open a repair shop in New Hampshire?
We found no state repair shop license. Check local zoning and permits.

Do I charge sales tax on repairs in New Hampshire?
No. There is no general sales tax.

This guide is general information, not legal advice. Rules change and can depend on your city or county, so confirm with the official agencies linked below before you apply.

https://nearbycarcare.com/resources/business/open-auto-repair-shop/new-hampshire/