START A BUSINESS - ALASKA

How to open a car dealership in Alaska

Alaska dealers need a DMV dealer license ($50) with liability insurance on an auto dealer's form, a permanent office and sign, an Alaska business license and a $100,000 bond.

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

1 Is a dealership right for you?

Dealers buy, recondition and sell vehicles and handle titles and paperwork. It suits people with sales skills, capital for inventory and patience for records.

2 Form the business and get an Alaska business license

1. Choose a structure. LLCs and corporations register with the Alaska Division of Corporations.
2. Get an Alaska business license ($50 a year or $100 for two years). Alaska has no statewide sales tax, but many cities and boroughs levy a local sales tax.
3. Check your city or borough for local sales tax, licenses and zoning.

3 The DMV dealer license

Apply to DMV Dealer Services ($50) with liability insurance on an auto dealer's form, owner photos, a photo of your permanent sign, proof of your business location, a permanent office that meets zoning, and a current Alaska business license. Owners with 5 percent or more certify no fraud-related felony in the past five years.

4 Dealer bond

File a $100,000 surety bond ($25,000 for motorcycle-only dealers) in the exact business name, notarized and sealed.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and get an Alaska business license.
2. Secure a permanent office and sign.
3. Get insurance and the $100,000 bond.
4. Apply to DMV Dealer Services.
5. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Alaska business license; local sales tax where levied

Required - State - Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing;

Get an Alaska business license ($50 a year or $100 for two years) before doing business. Alaska does not levy a statewide sales tax, but many cities and boroughs levy a local sales tax with their own rates and exemptions. Ask the municipality where you do business whether you must collect it on parts, labor or services.

Fees: $50 a year or $100 for two years

LLCs and corporations register with the Division of Corporations first.

Official application: https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/BusinessLicensing/BusinessLicensingFAQs

DMV motor vehicle dealer license

Required - State - Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles, Dealer Services

Apply to DMV Dealer Services with the dealer application, liability insurance on an auto dealer's form, owner photos, a photo of your permanent sign, proof of your business location (lease, deed or permission letter), a permanent office that meets zoning, and a current Alaska business license. Owners with a 5 percent or greater interest certify no fraud-related felony in the past five years.

Fees: $50

Official application: https://dmv.alaska.gov/media/40ncm5p3/interested-dealer-packet.pdf

Dealer surety bond ($100,000)

Required - State - Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles

File a $100,000 surety bond ($25,000 for motorcycle-only dealers) in the exact business name, signed by an owner or officer, notarized and sealed.

Amount: $100,000

Official agencies and links

Business Licensing

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/BusinessLicensing/BusinessLicensingFAQs

Requirements for Obtaining a Motor Vehicle Dealer License (revised 9/15/2025)

Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles, Dealer Services

https://dmv.alaska.gov/media/40ncm5p3/interested-dealer-packet.pdf

Frequently asked questions

How much is the Alaska dealer bond?

$100,000 ($25,000 for motorcycle-only dealers).

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-car-dealership/alaska/