START A BUSINESS - GEORGIA

How to open a car dealership in Georgia

Georgia used car dealers need a Secretary of State license after a pre-licensing seminar and, since July 1, 2026, a $50,000 bond; renewal takes 6 hours of continuing education.

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 register for sales tax

1. Choose a structure. LLCs and corporations file with the Georgia Secretary of State.
2. Register with the Department of Revenue (Georgia Tax Center) to collect sales tax at the state rate plus your county's local rates.
3. Check your city or county for business licenses and zoning.

3 Used motor vehicle dealer license

Used dealers are licensed by the State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers through the Secretary of State. Complete a Board-approved pre-licensing seminar, register for sales tax, and apply with fingerprints, insurance and the bond. To renew, complete 6 hours of continuing education, including 1 hour on tags and titles.

4 Dealer bond

Since July 1, 2026, the used dealer bond is $50,000 (it was $35,000), with a separate bond for each licensed location.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Complete the pre-licensing seminar.
3. Get insurance and the $50,000 bond.
4. Apply to the Board and get fingerprinted.
5. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Georgia sales and use tax registration

Required - State - Georgia Department of Revenue

Register with the Department of Revenue (Georgia Tax Center) to collect sales tax at the state rate plus local rates for your county.

Form your LLC or corporation with the Georgia Secretary of State first. Check your city or county for a business license.

Official application: https://dor.georgia.gov/taxes/sales-use-tax/what-subject-sales-and-use-tax

Used motor vehicle dealer license (Secretary of State)

Required - State - Georgia State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and

Used vehicle dealers are licensed by the Board through the Secretary of State. Complete a Board-approved pre-licensing seminar before applying, register for sales tax and submit the application with fingerprints, insurance and the bond. To renew, complete 6 hours of continuing education, including 1 hour on tags and titles. New vehicle dealers should also confirm their requirements with the Department of Revenue.

Fees: See the Board's fee schedule.
Official application: https://sos.ga.gov/page/used-motor-vehicle-dealers-used-motor-vehicle-parts-dealers-faq

Used dealer surety bond ($50,000)

Required - State - Georgia Secretary of State

Since July 1, 2026, used motor vehicle dealers file a $50,000 bond (it was $35,000 before), with a separate bond for each licensed location.
Amount: $50,000

Official agencies and links

O.C.G.A. 43-47-8, Used motor vehicle and parts dealer license requirements
Code of Georgia (via Justia)
https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-43/chapter-47/section-43-47-8/

What is Subject to Sales and Use Tax?
Georgia Department of Revenue
https://dor.georgia.gov/taxes/sales-use-tax/what-subject-sales-and-use-tax

Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers FAQ
Georgia Secretary of State, State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and
https://sos.ga.gov/page/used-motor-vehicle-dealers-used-motor-vehicle-parts-dealers-faq

Frequently asked questions

How much is the Georgia used car dealer bond?
$50,000 since July 1, 2026, with a separate bond for each location.

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.