START A BUSINESS - IOWA

How to start an auto detailing business in Iowa

Iowa taxes vehicle wash and wax as a service; get a sales tax permit and check local rules. We found no state detailing license.

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1 Is detailing right for you?

Detailers clean and protect vehicles inside and out. It suits careful, patient people and can start small with a mobile setup.

2 Form the business and register for sales tax

1. Choose a structure. LLCs and corporations file with the Iowa Secretary of State.
2. Get a sales tax permit from the Department of Revenue. Iowa taxes listed services, including vehicle repair, wash and wax, and towing.
3. Check your city or county for local licenses and zoning.

3 Licenses

We found no Iowa State license for detailing or car washes. Check your city or county for licenses and zoning.

4 Sales tax

Vehicle wash and wax is a taxable service in Iowa.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register with the Department of Revenue.
2. Check local licenses and zoning.
3. Buy insurance and equipment.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on vehicle wash and wax

Required - State - Iowa Department of Revenue

Vehicle wash and wax is a taxable service in Iowa. We found no Iowa State license for detailing.

Official agencies and links

Iowa Sales and Use Tax: Taxable Services

Iowa Department of Revenue

https://revenue.iowa.gov/taxes/tax-guidance/sales-use-excise-tax/iowa-sales-and-use-tax-taxable-services

Frequently asked questions

Is car washing taxable in Iowa?

Yes. Vehicle wash and wax is a taxable service.

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/start-auto-detailing-business/iowa/