START A BUSINESS - KENTUCKY

How to start an auto detailing business in Kentucky

Form the business and register for sales tax; we found no state detailing license, so check local rules and ask how your services are taxed.

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

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 Kentucky Secretary of State.
2. Register with the Department of Revenue to collect Kentucky's 6% sales tax. Labor charged with taxable parts is taxable.
3. Check your city or county for local licenses and zoning.

3 Licenses

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

4 Sales tax

Products you sell are taxable. Ask the Department of Revenue how your washing and detailing charges are treated.

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 products; ask about services

Required - State - Kentucky Department of Revenue

Products you sell are taxable at 6%. Kentucky added many services to the sales tax in 2023; ask the Department whether your washing and detailing charges are taxable. We found no Kentucky State license for detailing.

Official agencies and links

Labor Charges for Installation (TAXANSWERS)

Kentucky Department of Revenue

https://taxanswers.ky.gov/Sales-and-Excise-Taxes/Pages/Labor-Charges-for-Installation-FAQs.aspx

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a license to detail cars in Kentucky?

We found no state license.

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/kentucky/