START A BUSINESS - NEW HAMPSHIRE

# How to start an auto detailing business in New Hampshire

Form the business; there is no sales tax and we found no state detailing license, so focus on local zoning, water and insurance.

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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 (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 detailing or car washes, and there is no sales tax on the service. Check zoning and wastewater rules with your town.

## 4 Equipment and insurance

Plan for a pressure washer, vacuums and extractors, polishers and quality products; for mobile work, a water tank and generator. Contain runoff. General liability and coverage for customers' vehicles protect your business.

## 5 Your first steps

1. Form the business.
2. Choose mobile or a fixed location and check zoning.
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.

### Local zoning and wastewater rules

Required in some cases - Municipal - Your city or town

We found no New Hampshire State license for detailing or car washes, and there is no general sales tax on the service. Check zoning and wastewater rules with your town.

## Official agencies and links

**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 detail cars in New Hampshire?

We found no state license. Check local rules.

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.