START A BUSINESS - VIRGINIA

How to start an auto detailing business in Virginia

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

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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 register with the State Corporation Commission (SCC).
2. Register with Virginia Tax to collect sales tax. The rate depends on where you are: 5.3% in most of Virginia, 6% in Central Virginia, Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, and higher in a few localities.
3. Check your city or county for a local business license and zoning.

3 Licenses

We found no Virginia State license for detailing or car washes. Check your city or county for a business license and zoning.

4 Sales tax

Products you sell are taxable at your locality's rate. Ask Virginia Tax how your washing and detailing charges are treated.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Get your local business license and check zoning.
3. Buy insurance and equipment.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on products you sell; ask about services

Required - State - Virginia Department of Taxation

Products you sell are taxable at your locality's rate. Ask Virginia Tax how your washing and detailing charges are treated. We found no Virginia State license for detailing.

Official agencies and links

Retail Sales and Use Tax

Virginia Department of Taxation

https://www.tax.virginia.gov/retail-sales-and-use-tax

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a license to detail cars in Virginia?

We found no state license; get your local business 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/virginia/