START A BUSINESS - CONNECTICUT

How to start a mobile mechanic business in Connecticut

Repairs need a DMV repairer license, which requires a licensed facility; oil, tire, battery and similar services do not. Learn the difference before you start.

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1 Is mobile repair right for you?

Mobile mechanics fix cars at customers' homes and workplaces. In Connecticut, how you set up depends on which services you offer.

2 Form the business and get a sales tax permit

1. Choose a structure. LLCs file a Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of the State ($120). If you use a name different from the owners' names, file a trade name certificate with the town clerk; the DMV asks for it.
2. Get a Sales and Use Tax Permit from the Department of Revenue Services ($100). It is valid for two years and renews automatically when your returns are filed. The general rate is 6.35%.

3 Repairs need a repairer license

Repairing vehicles for consumers requires a DMV repairer license, and the license requires a facility: a building that can take at least one vehicle, an office and parts storage, plus a $25,000 bond. Ask the DMV Dealers and Repairers Unit how it treats repairs at customers' locations under your license.

4 Services that are not repairs

State law says lubricating, adding or changing oil and fluids, changing tires and tubes (including balancing), and installing batteries, bulbs, wiper blades or drive belts are not repairing. A mobile business limited to these services does not need a repairer license.

5 Sales tax and A/C

Repair services and parts are taxable at 6.35%. Servicing vehicle A/C for pay needs EPA Section 609 certification.

6 Your first steps

1. Form the business and get your sales tax permit.
2. Decide which services you offer and whether you need a repairer license.
3. Buy insurance and tools.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Form the business and file a trade name certificate if needed

Required - State - Connecticut Secretary of the State; your town clerk

LLCs file a Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of the State (corporations file their own formation documents there). A business using a name different from its owners' names files a trade name certificate with the town clerk, which the DMV asks for on license applications.

Fees: LLC Certificate of Organization: $120.

Official application: https://business.ct.gov/knowledge-base/articles/domestic-limited-liability-companies-forms-and-fees

Sales and Use Tax Permit

Required - State - Connecticut Department of Revenue Services

Register with the Department of Revenue Services for a Sales and Use Tax Permit before you make taxable sales.
The general rate is 6.35%. Permits are valid for two years and renew automatically if your returns are filed.
The DMV asks dealers, repairers and recyclers for a copy of the permit.
Fees: $100 application fee. Doing business without a permit: $250 penalty for the first day and $100 for each following day.

DMV repairer license (ask about repairs at customer locations)

Required - State - Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

Repairing motor vehicles for consumers requires a DMV dealer or repairer license, and the license requires a suitable facility (a building that can take at least one vehicle, an office and parts storage). Ask the DMV Dealers and Repairers Unit how it treats repairs done at customers' locations under your license.
Fees: $140 nonrefundable application fee; repairer license $340 for two years; plates $140 each plus $5 safety fee (K-36, revision 07-2026).
Oil and fluid changes, tire changes, and installing batteries, bulbs, wiper blades or drive belts are not repairing under CGS 14-51 and do not need a repairer license.
Official application: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMV/20/29/K36pdf.pdf

Collect sales tax on repairs and parts

Required - State - Connecticut Department of Revenue Services

Motor vehicle repair services, including any repair or replacement of operating parts, are taxable.

EPA Section 609 certification for air conditioning work

Required in some cases - Federal - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Required to repair or service motor vehicle air conditioning systems for payment or bartering.

Official agencies and links

Section 609 Technician Training and Certification Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
https://www.epa.gov/mvac/section-609-technician-training-and-certification-programs

Get a regulated DMV business license or registration
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles
https://portal.ct.gov/dmv/commercial-and-industry-services/get-regulated-business-license

Procedure for Obtaining a Connecticut Dealer or Repairer License (K-36)
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, Dealers and Repairers Licensing Unit
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMV/20/29/K36pdf.pdf

Getting Started in Business (Informational Publication 2018(5))
Connecticut Department of Revenue Services
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DRS/Publications/pubsip/2018/IP-2018(5).pdf

Services Subject to Sales and Use Taxes
Connecticut Department of Revenue Services
https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Sales-Tax/Services-Subject-to-Sales-and-Use-Taxes

Domestic Limited Liability Company forms and fees
Connecticut Secretary of the State (Business One Stop)
https://business.ct.gov/knowledge-base/articles/domestic-limited-liability-companies-forms-and-fees

Frequently asked questions

Can I be a mobile-only mechanic in Connecticut?
Repairs need a DMV repairer license that requires a facility. Services such as oil changes, tire changes and battery installs are not repairs under state law.

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.