START A BUSINESS - MAINE

How to start a mobile mechanic business in Maine

Form the business and register for sales tax; we found no state license for mobile repair, and separately listed labor is not taxed.

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1 Is mobile repair right for you?

Mobile mechanics fix cars at customers' homes and workplaces. It suits experienced technicians who want lower overhead than a shop.

2 Form the business and register for sales tax

1. Choose a structure. LLCs and corporations file with the Maine Secretary of State.
2. Register with Maine Revenue Services to collect Maine's 5.5% sales tax on parts and other goods.

3 Licenses

We found no Maine State license for mobile mechanics. Check zoning and local permits with your town.

4 Sales tax on repairs

Under Maine Revenue Services Bulletin No. 1, when the invoice lists parts and labor separately, only the parts are taxed (5.5%). If you do not separate them, the whole charge is taxable. A repair with no parts is not taxed. Tools and equipment are taxed when you buy them.

5 A/C work

Servicing vehicle air conditioning for pay requires EPA Section 609 certification.

6 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Set up invoices that list parts and labor separately.
3. Buy insurance and tools.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on parts; itemize labor

Required - State - Maine Revenue Services

Maine Revenue Services Bulletin No. 1: when parts and labor are separately stated on the invoice, sales tax (5.5%) applies only to the parts. If they are not separately stated, the entire charge is taxable. Repairs that include no parts are not taxed. Tools and equipment are taxable when the shop buys them.

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. We found no Maine State license for mobile mechanics.

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

Instructional Bulletin No. 1: Service Stations and Auto Repair Shops
Maine Revenue Services
https://www.maine.gov/revenue/sites/maine.gov.revenue/files/inline-files/Bull120160308.pdf

Frequently asked questions

Do mobile mechanics need a license in Maine?
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-mobile-mechanic-business/maine/