START A BUSINESS - FLORIDA

How to start a salvage yard in Florida

A Florida salvage yard registers with FLHSMV as a salvage motor vehicle dealer and, if it turns vehicles into scrap, with the Department of Revenue as a secondary metals recycler.

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1 Is a salvage yard right for you?

Salvage yards buy wrecked and end of life vehicles, sell usable parts and recycle the rest. It suits people who like hands-on work and careful records.

2 Form the business and register for sales tax

1. Choose a structure. LLCs and corporations file with the Florida Division of Corporations (Sunbiz).
2. Register with the Department of Revenue to collect sales tax: 6% state plus any county surtax.
3. Get your local business tax receipt from your county and city and check zoning.

3 Salvage motor vehicle dealer

If you acquire salvaged or wrecked vehicles to resell them or their parts, register with FLHSMV as a salvage motor vehicle dealer under the dealer licensing law.

4 Secondary metals recycler

If you dismantle vehicles into scrap metal, also register with the Department of Revenue as a secondary metals recycler (Form DR-1S, $6 per location and license type, criminal history check for first-time applicants).

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Apply to FLHSMV as a salvage dealer.
3. Register as a secondary metals recycler if you scrap vehicles.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Florida sales and use tax registration

Required - State - Florida Department of Revenue

Register with the Department of Revenue to collect sales tax: 6% state rate plus any county discretionary sales surtax.

Form your LLC or corporation with the Florida Division of Corporations (Sunbiz) first. Check your county and city for a local business tax receipt.

Official application: https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/taxesfees/Pages/sales_tax.aspx

FLHSMV salvage motor vehicle dealer license

Required - State - Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

A business that acquires salvaged or wrecked vehicles to resell them or their parts registers with FLHSMV as a salvage motor vehicle dealer under the dealer licensing law (Florida Statutes 320.27).

Official application:
https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/dealers-installers-manufacturers-distributors-importers/mv-rv-mh-dealer-broker-licenses/

Secondary metals recycler registration (Department of Revenue)

Required in some cases - State - Florida Department of Revenue

If you dismantle vehicles into scrap metal, register with the Department of Revenue as a secondary metals recycler (Form DR-1S) as well as a sales tax dealer. First-time applicants go through a criminal history check.

Fees: $6 per location and license type

Official application: https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/taxesfees/Pages/secondhand_dealers_recyclers.aspx

Forklift operator training (OSHA)

Required in some cases - Federal - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

If employees use forklifts, the employer must train and evaluate each operator before they operate one (29 CFR 1910.178(l)).

Official agencies and links

29 CFR 1910.178, Powered industrial trucks (operator training, paragraph (l))
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.178

Motor Vehicle, Recreational Vehicle and Mobile Home Dealer/Broker Licenses
Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/dealers-installers-manufacturers-distributors-importers/mv-rv-mh-dealer-broker-licenses/

Sales and Use Tax
Florida Department of Revenue
https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/taxesfees/Pages/sales_tax.aspx

Secondhand Dealers and Secondary Metals Recyclers
Florida Department of Revenue
https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/taxesfees/Pages/secondhand_dealers_recyclers.aspx

Frequently asked questions

What licenses does a Florida junkyard need?

An FLHSMV salvage motor vehicle dealer license, and Department of Revenue secondary metals recycler registration if you scrap vehicles.

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.