START A BUSINESS - GEORGIA

How to start a salvage yard in Georgia

Georgia salvage yards, dismantlers and rebuilders need a used motor vehicle parts dealer license from the Secretary of State's Board, with a seminar, fingerprints and a $10,000 bond.

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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 Georgia Secretary of State.
2. Register with the Department of Revenue (Georgia Tax Center) to collect sales tax at the state rate plus your county's local rates.
3. Check your city or county for business licenses and zoning.

3 Used parts dealer license

Used parts dealers, dismantlers, rebuilders, salvage pools and salvage dealers need a license from the Secretary of State's Board. Complete the pre-licensing seminar, submit a notarized application, get fingerprinted and file a $10,000 bond.

4 Renewal and taxes

The license lasts two years and is renewed online by December 31 of odd-numbered years. Used parts you sell are taxable.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Complete the pre-licensing seminar.
3. Get the bond and apply to the Board.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on parts you sell

Required - State - Georgia Department of Revenue

Used parts and other goods are taxable at the state and local rates.

Used motor vehicle parts dealer license

Required - State - Georgia State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and

Used parts dealers, dismantlers, rebuilders, salvage pools and salvage dealers need a license from the Board. Complete the pre-licensing seminar, submit a notarized application, get fingerprinted and file a $10,000 bond. The license lasts two years and is renewed by December 31 of odd-numbered years.

Amount: $10,000 bond

Official application: https://sos.ga.gov/how-to-guide/how-guide-used-motor-vehicle-parts-dealers

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

What is Subject to Sales and Use Tax?

Georgia Department of Revenue

https://dor.georgia.gov/taxes/sales-use-tax/what-subject-sales-and-use-tax

How-to Guide: Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers

Georgia Secretary of State

https://sos.ga.gov/how-to-guide/how-guide-used-motor-vehicle-parts-dealers

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a license to run a junkyard in Georgia?

Yes, a used motor vehicle parts dealer license from the Secretary of State's Board, with a $10,000 bond.

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.