START A BUSINESS - WEST VIRGINIA

How to start a salvage yard in West Virginia

A West Virginia salvage yard needs a DMV wrecker and dismantler license and a Division of Highways salvage yard license, after county approval.

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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 West Virginia Secretary of State.
2. Register with the West Virginia Tax Division for your business registration and sales tax account. The state rate is 6%, and cities may add up to 1%.
3. Check your city or county for local licenses and zoning.

3 Two licenses

Dismantlers and rebuilders get a DMV wrecker, dismantler and rebuilder license ($250, renewal $15). The yard itself needs a state salvage yard license from the Division of Highways ($200 a year), after an approval permit from your county planning commission ($25).

4 Location and tires

The state limits yards near major highways and occupied homes, and a yard with more than 100 loose waste tires needs a DEP permit or agreement.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register with the Tax Division.
2. Get county approval and the Division of Highways license.
3. Apply to DMV Dealer Services.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

West Virginia business registration and sales tax (6%)

Required - State - West Virginia Tax Division

Register your business and sales tax account with the West Virginia Tax Division. The state rate is 6%, and municipalities may add up to 1%. Sales of goods and services are presumed taxable unless an exemption applies.

Form your LLC or corporation with the West Virginia Secretary of State first. Fees not verified here.

Official application: https://tax.wv.gov/Documents/TSD/tsd300.pdf

DMV wrecker, dismantler and rebuilder license

Required - State - West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles, Dealer Services

Dismantlers and rebuilders are licensed through DMV Dealer Services under the wrecker, dismantler and rebuilder class. Call Dealer Services for the requirements and inspection.

Fees: Application $250, renewal $15

Official application: https://dmv.wv.gov/motor-vehicle-dealer-resource-page

Division of Highways salvage yard license and county approval

Required - State - West Virginia Division of Highways

Get an approval permit from your county planning commission first, then apply to the Commissioner of Highways for the state salvage yard license. The state limits locations near major highways and occupied residences, and yards with more than 100 loose waste tires need a DEP permit or agreement.
Fees: State license $200 a year (expires January 1); county approval permit $25

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 Dealer Resource Page
West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles
https://dmv.wv.gov/motor-vehicle-dealer-resource-page

W. Va. Code section 17-23-4, Salvage yard license
West Virginia Legislature
https://code.wvlegislature.gov/17-23-4/

TSD 300: Sales and Use Tax Exemptions
West Virginia Tax Division
https://tax.wv.gov/Documents/TSD/tsd300.pdf

TSD 369: Use Tax for Your Business
West Virginia Tax Division
https://tax.wv.gov/Documents/TSD/tsd369.pdf

Frequently asked questions

What licenses does a West Virginia junkyard need?
A DMV wrecker and dismantler license and a Division of Highways salvage yard license after county approval.

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-salvage-yard/west-virginia/