START A BUSINESS - FLORIDA

How to start a towing company in Florida

Florida towing is regulated by state private property towing rules and by county and city wrecker systems and licenses; repairs with parts are fully taxable.

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1 Is towing right for you?

Towing companies move disabled, damaged and illegally parked vehicles and answer police and motor club calls. It suits owners who can run a 24 hour operation and keep trucks and drivers on the road.

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 County and city systems

Counties and cities may run wrecker operator systems and license towing companies; only authorized operators respond within them. Start with your county and city.

4 Private property tows

Store towed vehicles within 10 miles of the pickup point in counties of 500,000 or more (15 miles elsewhere), keep the lot open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on days you tow, follow the signage and notice rules and never pay a property owner for the right to tow.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Ask your county and city about towing licenses and wrecker systems.
3. Set up a storage lot that meets the distance rules.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on repairs and parts

Required in some cases - State - Florida Department of Revenue

Repairs with parts are fully taxable. Ask the Department how your towing and storage charges are treated.

Private property towing rules

Required in some cases - State - The Florida Senate (Florida Statutes 715.07)

When towing from private property, store vehicles within 10 miles of the point of removal in counties of 500,000 or more (15 miles elsewhere), keep the storage site open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on days you tow, follow the signage and notice rules, and never pay a property owner for the right to tow.

County and city wrecker systems and licenses

Required in some cases - Municipal - Your county or city

Counties and cities may run wrecker operator systems and license towing companies; only authorized operators may respond within those systems. Ask your county and city.

Name and USDOT number on trucks in interstate commerce

Required in some cases - Federal - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Commercial motor vehicles subject to the federal rules show the carrier's name and USDOT number on both sides, readable from 50 feet in daylight (49 CFR 390.21).

Official agencies and links

49 CFR 390.21, Marking of self-propelled CMVs and intermodal equipment

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (eCFR)

https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-390/subpart-B/section-390.21

Sales and Use Tax on Repair of Tangible Personal Property (GT-800010)

Florida Department of Revenue

https://floridarevenue.com/Forms_library/gt800010.pdf

Florida Statutes 323.002, County and municipal wrecker operator systems

The Florida Senate

https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2026/323.002

Florida Statutes 715.07, Vehicles parked on private property; towing

The Florida Senate

https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2026/715.07

Frequently asked questions

Does Florida license tow companies?

Counties and cities may license towers and run wrecker systems; state law sets private property towing rules.

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.