START A BUSINESS - NEW HAMPSHIRE

How to start a towing company in New Hampshire

New Hampshire has no state towing license, but towing for the State Police means joining the rotation list with $1 million in insurance, fast response times, secure storage and filed rates.

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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 (no sales tax to collect)

1. Choose a structure. LLCs file a Certificate of Formation (Form LLC-1) with the Secretary of State's Corporation Division ($100), stating the primary nature of the business.
2. No sales tax. New Hampshire has no general sales tax on goods, so you do not collect sales tax on parts or services. The meals and rentals tax applies only to meals, rooms and vehicle rentals.

3 The State Police rotation list

We found no New Hampshire State towing license. To tow for the State Police, apply to the director for the rotation list with employee records and background information. Listed companies arrive within 30 minutes (60 for heavy duty calls), keep secure, lighted storage, wear reflective clothing, file their rate list on letterhead, give detailed receipts and accept cash or major cards. They also need an FMCSA safety registration, an active USDOT number and valid New Hampshire registration. Ask local police departments about their own tow lists.

4 Insurance

Tow list companies keep tow and hook, liability and garage keepers' insurance, with at least $1,000,000 in liability including garage keepers' coverage.

5 Lettering and fee reviews

Tow list trucks show the company name, base town and state, phone number and USDOT number on both sides, legible from 50 feet. Owners who think a tow was overcharged can ask the Commissioner of Safety for a review, so keep clear, itemized receipts.

6 Your first steps

1. Form the business.
2. Get your USDOT number and FMCSA registration.
3. Buy insurance.
4. Apply for the State Police and local tow lists.
5. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Form the business with the Secretary of State

Required - State - New Hampshire Secretary of State, Corporation Division

LLCs file a Certificate of Formation (Form LLC-1) with the Corporation Division, online or on paper. The certificate must state the primary nature of the business.

Fees: Form LLC-1: $100.

Official application: https://www.sos.nh.gov/corporations-0/forms-and-fees/limited-liability-companies

No general sales tax to collect

Optional - State - New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration

New Hampshire has no general sales tax on goods, so automotive businesses do not register to collect sales tax on parts or services. The meals and rentals tax applies only to meals, rooms and motor vehicle rentals.
If you rent vehicles to customers, ask the Department about the meals and rentals tax license.

State Police rotation list requirements (police tows)

Required in some cases - State - New Hampshire State Police

To tow for the State Police you apply to the director for the rotation list with employee records and background information. Listed companies must arrive within 30 minutes (60 for heavy duty), keep secure lighted storage, wear reflective clothing, file their rate list with the State Police, give detailed receipts, accept cash or major cards, and hold an FMCSA safety registration, an active USDOT number and valid New Hampshire registration.

$1,000,000 liability for State Police tow list companies

Required in some cases - State - New Hampshire State Police

Tow businesses on the State Police list maintain tow and hook, liability and garage keepers' insurance, with at least $1,000,000 in liability including garage keepers' coverage.
Amount: $1,000,000 liability including garage keepers
We found no statewide insurance minimum for tow companies that are not on the State Police list; ask an insurance professional and your local police department.

Lettering on both sides of tow trucks

Required in some cases - State - New Hampshire State Police

Tow list vehicles show, on both sides in contrasting letters legible from 50 feet, the company name, the city or town and state where the truck is based, the business phone on each front door, and the USDOT number.

Fee review for towed vehicle owners

Required in some cases - State - New Hampshire Department of Safety

Owners who believe a tow covered by RSA 262:31 to 262:40-c was overcharged can ask the Commissioner of Safety to review it; other complaints go to the Department of Justice consumer protection division. Keep clear, itemized receipts.

Official agencies and links

Does New Hampshire have a sales tax?
New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration
https://www.revenue.nh.gov/faq/does-new-hampshire-have-sales-tax

RSA 106-B:30, Requirements for Placement on the Tow List
New Hampshire General Court
https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/VII/106-B/106-B-30.htm

Limited Liability Companies: forms and fees (Form LLC-1 Certificate of Formation)
New Hampshire Secretary of State, Corporation Division
https://www.sos.nh.gov/corporations-0/forms-and-fees/limited-liability-companies

Frequently asked questions

Does New Hampshire license tow companies?
We found no statewide license. Companies on the State Police rotation list must meet RSA 106-B:30, including $1,000,000 in liability coverage.

Do I charge sales tax on towing in New Hampshire?
No. New Hampshire has no general sales tax.

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.