START A BUSINESS - MAINE

How to start a vehicle wrap and graphics business in Maine

Form the business and register for sales tax, list materials and installation separately, and know the USDOT marking rules your fleet customers rely on.

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1 Is a wrap business right for you?

Wrap shops design, print and install vinyl wraps, fleet graphics, lettering and USDOT numbers. It suits detail-oriented people with design or installation skills.

2 Form the business and register for sales tax

1. Choose a structure. LLCs and corporations file with the Maine Secretary of State.
2. Register with Maine Revenue Services to collect Maine's 5.5% sales tax on parts and other goods.

3 Licenses

We found no Maine State license for wrap installation. Check zoning and local permits with your town.

4 Sales tax

Goods are taxable at 5.5%. List the wrap material and the installation separately, and ask Maine Revenue Services how your invoices are treated.

5 Marking rules your customers rely on

Vehicles that need a USDOT number show the carrier name and USDOT number on both sides, readable from 50 feet.

6 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Set up a clean installation bay.
3. Learn the marking rules for fleet customers.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Maine sales tax registration (5.5%)

Required - State - Maine Revenue Services

Maine's general sales tax is 5.5%. Register with Maine Revenue Services to collect it on taxable sales; returns are due by the 15th of the month.

Form your LLC or corporation with the Maine Secretary of State before registering. Fees not verified here.

Official application: https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/sales-use-service-provider-tax/rates-due-dates

Sales tax on wraps; itemize installation

Required - State - Maine Revenue Services

Goods are taxable at 5.5%; for repairs, separately stated labor is not taxed. Itemize the wrap material and the installation, and ask Maine Revenue Services about your invoices.

USDOT number marking on commercial motor vehicles

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

Vehicles that need a USDOT number 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

Instructional Bulletin No. 1: Service Stations and Auto Repair Shops

Maine Revenue Services

https://www.maine.gov/revenue/sites/maine.gov.revenue/files/inline-files/Bull120160308.pdf

Sales and Use Tax Rates and Due Dates

Maine Revenue Services

https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/sales-use-service-provider-tax/rates-due-dates

Frequently asked questions

Do wrap installers need a license in Maine?

We found no state license.

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-vehicle-wrap-business/maine/