LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC roadside assistance licenses and permits

What DC requires of these businesses: registration, tax, licenses and the official links to check.

Sources verified 2026-11-21 - Updated 2026-11-21

1 The rules at a glance

- DC sales tax registration and Clean Hands (repairs taxable, labor included)
- DLCP auto repair or tow license for your work
- Sales tax on repairs

Requirements at a glance

DC sales tax registration

Required - State - DC Office of Tax and Revenue

Register with the Office of Tax and Revenue and collect DC sales tax on taxable sales and services. A Clean Hands certification is part of DC business licensing.

Register your business entity with DLCP's Corporations Division first. Fees not verified here.

Official application: https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/sections/47-2001

Auto repair or tow license for the work you do

Required in some cases - State - DC Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection

DLCP's Consumer Goods (Auto Repair) category covers repair, servicing and towing of vehicles; tow trucks need tow licenses. Ask DLCP which license fits your roadside services.

Official application: https://dlcp.dc.gov/node/1618741

Official agencies and links

D.C. Code 47-2001, Sales tax definitions (retail sales of services)
Council of the District of Columbia
https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/sections/47-2001

Consumer Goods (Auto Repair) business license
DC Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection
https://dlcp.dc.gov/node/1618741

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a license for roadside assistance in DC?

Likely. DLCP's auto repair category covers servicing and towing; ask DLCP.

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.