LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# DC salvage yard 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)
- Ask DLCP which license applies and DMV about salvage titles
- Sales tax on parts
- Forklift operator training

## Requirements at a glance

### Sales tax on parts you sell

Required - State - DC Office of Tax and Revenue

Used parts and other goods you sell are taxable.

### Salvage yard rules: ask DLCP and DMV

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

We found no separate DC salvage yard license in the sources we checked. Selling vehicles needs a dealer license. Ask DLCP which business license applies, DMV about salvage titles, and check zoning.

### 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

**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

Does DC license salvage yards?

We found no separate salvage yard license; ask DLCP and DMV.

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.