LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - MAINE

Maine salvage yard licenses and permits

What Maine 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

- Register with Maine Revenue Services
- BMV recycler license
- Town permit (recycling business or graveyard)
- Location limits: highways, water wells, public facilities
- Forklift operator training

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on parts you sell

Required - State - Maine Revenue Services

Used parts and other goods are taxable at 5.5%.

BMV recycler license

Required - State - Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Anyone in the business of buying vehicles or parts to resell as salvage or scrap, rebuilding salvage vehicles, selling or storing parts, storing salvage vehicles or processing scrap needs a recycler license. You need a permanent place of business open to the public that complies with zoning, an exterior sign, storage and display facilities and an office for records (29-A M.R.S. 1103). Selling rebuilt salvage vehicles also requires dealer registration.

Ask the BMV Dealer Section for the current fee and application.

Official application:
https://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/motor-vehicle-dealer-licensing/who-should-apply-to-be-a-motor-vehicle-dealer

Town permit for an automobile recycling business or graveyard

Required - Municipal - Your town's municipal officers (county commissioners in unorganized te

You need a nontransferable permit from the municipal officers before you establish or operate the yard. Recycling business permits last 5 years with a sworn statement every year. State limits apply: highway setbacks and screening, distance from schools, churches and public facilities, and no permit within 300 feet of a water supply well (30-A M.R.S. 3754-A).

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

Who Should Apply to Be a Motor Vehicle Dealer

Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles
https://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/motor-vehicle-dealer-licensing/who-should-apply-to-be-a-motor-vehicle-dealer

29-A M.R.S. section 1101, Recycler license required
Maine Legislature
https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/29-A/title29-Asec1101.html

30-A M.R.S. section 3753, Junkyard, automobile graveyard and recycling business permi
Maine Legislature
https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/30-A/title30-Asec3753.html

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 I need a permit for a junkyard in Maine?
Yes: a town permit for the yard and a BMV recycler 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/licenses/salvage-yard-licenses-permits/maine/