LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - WISCONSIN

Wisconsin salvage yard licenses and permits

What Wisconsin 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

- Seller's permit (repairs, cleaning and towing taxable)
- DMV salvage dealer license
- $25,000 financial coverage
- Environmental compliance
- Forklift operator training

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on parts you sell

Required - State - Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Used parts and other goods are taxable; Type 1 and Type 2 salvage dealers need a seller's permit.

DMV salvage dealer license

Required - State - Wisconsin Department of Transportation, DMV

Buying vehicles to wreck, process, scrap, recycle or dismantle requires a salvage dealer license (Type 1 dismantles and sells parts). Show your license number on trucks that haul salvage, post your hours, show environmental compliance and provide $25,000 financial coverage by financial statement (net worth of at least $5,000), letter of credit or bond.

Amount: $25,000 financial coverage

Official application: https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/dlr-agents/busns-lcnse/salvagedealerlicense.aspx

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

Publication 202: Sales and Use Tax Information for Motor Vehicle Sales, Leases, and R

Wisconsin Department of Revenue

https://www.revenue.wi.gov/DOR%20Publications/pb202.pdf

Salvage dealer license

Wisconsin Department of Transportation, DMV

https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/dlr-agents/busns-lcnse/salvagedealerlicense.aspx

Frequently asked questions

What license does a Wisconsin junkyard need?

A DMV salvage dealer license with $25,000 financial coverage.

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/wisconsin/