LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC vehicle wrap business requirements

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)
- Sales tax on wraps; ask about installation
- Ask DLCP about the auto repair license
- USDOT marking rules

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

Sales tax on wraps and installation

Required - State - DC Office of Tax and Revenue

Wraps you sell are taxable, and DC taxes charges for installing property as part of a repair or alteration; ask the Office of Tax and Revenue how your installation charges are treated.

Ask DLCP which license covers vehicle finishing

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

DLCP's Consumer Goods (Auto Repair) category includes alteration, painting and finishing of vehicles; ask DLCP whether wrap installation falls under it.

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

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 wrap installers need a license in DC?
Ask DLCP; its auto repair category covers painting and finishing of vehicles.

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.