

California Car Detailing Business License Checklist

1. Choose and register your business structure (LLC, Corporation, Sole Proprietorship, etc.).
2. File a Fictitious Business Name (DBA) if using a trade name.
3. Apply for a Federal EIN from the IRS.
4. Register with the California Secretary of State (for LLCs/corporations).
5. Apply for Car Wash & Polishing Registration with the DIR.
6. Prepare required documents: formation papers, EIN, insurance proof, tax forms.
7. Obtain a \$150,000 surety bond (or qualify for an exemption).
8. Pay the \$300 annual registration fee per location.
9. Post your registration certificate in a visible spot.
10. Keep records for at least three years.
11. Renew your registration annually.
12. For mobile detailers: check local zoning, water use, and waste disposal rules.