

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DUMP TRUCK DRIVER? THIS WILL GET YOU STARTED!



Becoming a dump truck driver might not be the flashiest career, but it can open the door to a lucrative future in heavy-vehicle operations. Whether you're planning for a career in the vocational market or setting your sights on long haul trucking, driving dump trucks is a door opener that can lead to a long term career or serve as a stepping stone towards alternate trucking jobs.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BECOMING A DUMP TRUCK DRIVER

1. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Licenses are a common area of confusion because dump truck drivers need a different license than many other heavy truck operators. A dump truck operator needs a Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL). This license allows you to operate a vehicle which weighs more than 26,000 pounds – but tows less than 10,000 pounds. Since most dump trucks are integrated, that's the most appropriate license. Class B licenses also cover other all-in-one vehicles, such as buses.

By comparison, a Class A CDL license allows for driving vehicles which weigh more than 26,000 lbs. and tow more than 10,000lbs.

2. LICENSING PROCEDURES

Believe it or not, getting a Class B license really isn't much different from getting a regular license. You must take an exam to qualify for a Commercial Driver's License learner's permit, then get a certain number of on-road hours before applying for a permanent CDL.

The main difference is that you must already have a non-commercial Class C driver's license to start the process.

3. GOING TO TRUCK-DRIVING SCHOOL

Strictly speaking, truck-driving school isn't a requirement, but it's still a very good idea in the vast majority of cases. CLD training typically lasts 2-4 weeks, incorporating both classroom and behind-the-wheel training. This training teaches techniques, road safety, first aid, applicable federal laws, and more.

4. TIME COMMITMENT

Depending on circumstances, it typically takes approximately 30 to 60 days to get a Class B license. That makes it even more enticing to get into trucking!

Even with no prior experience, once you've gained the necessary skills, take the exam, and earn your license, you will be ready to begin your career as a dump truck driver!

