

120 Day Bills

If you purchase a vehicle from a dealership within SC, the dealership will go to DMV on your behalf and get your license plate. When the dealer agrees to get that plate, you will sign paperwork stating that you will pay the personal property taxes approximately 120 days after the purchase date.

After the vehicle is purchased, the DMV will send the vehicle's information to the Auditor's Office so that a tax bill can be generated. You will receive a tax bill marked "120 Days" about three months after the plate is activated. This bill will tax the period from the date of purchase to the date the decal on the plate expires.

Please note that if you transfer the plate from the original vehicle to a new vehicle, you must still pay taxes due on the original vehicle as found on your 120 Day bill. Additionally, if you sell the vehicle for which you received a 120 Day bill, you can provide the Auditor's Office with a copy of the plate turn-in receipt from DMV and proof of sale so that the 120 Day Bill can be prorated for the number of months that the plate was active.

Contact

Beaufort County Auditor's Office
PO Box 458
Beaufort, SC 29901
Phone: 843-255-2500
Email: auditor@bcgov.net

Beaufort County Treasurer's Office
PO Drawer 487
Beaufort, SC 29901
Phone: 843-255-2600

South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles
Beaufort Branch Phone: 843-379-8822
Bluffton Branch Phone: 843-815-6981
State Branch Phone: 803-896-5000
Website: www.scdmvonline.com

PLEASE NOTE: In order to update an address for a vehicle, please contact the DMV.



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Taxation of Motor Vehicles in Beaufort County

Updated May 2021.

How Motor Vehicles are Taxed in South Carolina

Motor vehicles such as cars, trucks, motorcycles, heavy duty trucks, and recreational vehicles are taxed in advance on a staggered monthly schedule. Paying a renewal notice for personal property taxes on a motor vehicle secures your license plate decal and registration for twelve months from the date of expiration.

Vehicle values are provided to all South Carolina Auditors by the South Carolina Department of Revenue (DOR). This value guide is based on other nationally-recognized guides and is mandatory for use by all South Carolina Auditors.

Personal use vehicles are taxed at 6%. Business vehicles, heavy duty trucks, and recreational vehicles are taxed at 10.5%.

Motor vehicle tax bills are subject to additional fees such as road usage fees, DMV plate renewal fees, and district-specific special usage fees.

Registering a Vehicle for the First Time

If you have recently purchased a vehicle and wish to get a new South Carolina plate, you must come to the Auditor's Office to have a bill generated for the personal property taxes. In order to generate the bill, the Auditor's Office will need to see the signed title or bill of sale and photo ID for each owner. Pictures of photo ID are acceptable.

If you are bringing a vehicle from out of state that you wish to register in SC, you must also come to the Auditor's Office to have a tax bill generated. You have 45 days to register a vehicle after moving to SC. The Auditor's Office will need to see the title, out-of-state registration, or lease agreement as well as proof of photo ID for each owner.

Once the tax bill is paid, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will need to see your paid tax receipt, title or registration, and proof of SC insurance in order to register the vehicle, process a new title, and issue a new SC license plate.

Please note: If you have high mileage on your vehicle, you may be eligible for a discount. Per SC state law, high mileage discounts do not reduce the appraised value of the vehicle. Discounts on vehicles with high mileage are based on a staggered chart. In order to apply for this discount, please contact the Auditor's Office with a photo of your odometer before the due date of your tax bill. The Auditor's Office reserves the right to verify the vehicle odometer before applying the discount.

Selling or Registering a Vehicle Out of State

If you register a vehicle out of state or sell it and decide not to transfer your SC license plate to a new vehicle, you must make sure your plate is turned in to the SC DMV. If you live out of state, you can mail your plate back in to the DMV. If you no longer have the plate in your possession, you can contact the DMV and file for a lost or stolen plate.

If the vehicle is sold or registered out of state before the registration expires and the plate is turned in to the DMV, you may be eligible for a prorated refund on the property taxes. Please contact the Auditor's Office to inquire about this prorated refund.

Important: You may be able to transfer your old SC plate from the vehicle you are selling if the decal on the plate still has time left on it and the new vehicle will be registered in the same owner's name. Please contact DMV to inquire about transferring the plate. If the plate is transferred, you will not pay taxes on the new vehicle until the registration expires.

Please note that if the plate is transferred within three months of the decal expiring, you may have to come in to the Auditor's Office to generate a tax bill for the current vehicle. DMV will likely send information to our office to generate a tax bill for the previous vehicle.