

**Purpose:** Use this information sheet for general registration and license plate information.

Note: You must obtain a Virginia vehicle safety inspection sticker and pay any required local vehicle registration fees to your city or county. For the City of Virginia Beach only, DMV collects local vehicle registration fees.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**REGISTRATION PERIOD**

All motor vehicles are eligible for multi-year registration with the exception of motor vehicles which are:

- Uninsured (required to pay the Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee).
- Subject to the payment of Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax.
- Registered under the International Registration Plan, or registered on a quarterly basis.

**REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS**

- The following discounts apply to multi-year new and renewal vehicle registrations:
  - 2 years - \$2.00 discount.
  - 3 years - \$3.00 discount (not available for vehicles subject to emissions testing).
- Customers who renew their registration using the internet receive a \$1.00 discount *in addition to* the discounts stated above.

**REGISTRATION RENEWAL**

- A \$5.00 service fee per vehicle applies to each renewal transaction conducted in a DMV Customer Service Center, unless the renewal is conducted with another transaction that cannot be completed by internet, automated telephone, mail or at a DMV Select.
- A \$10.00 late fee will be charged if registration is renewed after the expiration date.
- The 3-year renewal option is not available for customers whose vehicles are outside their manufacturer's or model year emissions exemption and subject to emissions requirements because emissions inspections are valid for 2 years (applies to vehicles garaged in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford, Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas or Manassas Park).

**EXCHANGE OF LICENSE PLATES**

If license plates are exchanged for a different plate type or character combination, a \$10.00 exchange fee is charged.

**REISSUE OF LICENSE PLATES**

If plate(s) are lost, mutilated, destroyed or illegible, a \$10.00 reissue fee is charged. For permanent and trailer plates, a \$5.00 replacement fee is charged.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

- A \$64.00 annual license tax is required for all vehicles that are powered exclusively by an electric engine.
- This tax is collected at the time of original registration and at registration renewals.
- The tax will be collected based on the registration period (ex. If the person has a 2 year registration the total license tax will be \$128.00).

**TRANSFER OF LICENSE PLATES**

You may transfer license plates from the vehicle you previously owned to the vehicle you now own if:

- Both vehicles are the same design and weight - pay \$2.00.
- The vehicle you now own weighs more - pay \$2.00 plus a prorated fee for the difference in weight.
- The vehicle you now own weighs less - pay \$2.00, no refund for the difference in weight.

License plates may not be transferred from one owner to another.

**RENTAL VEHICLES**

If you rent vehicles, your company or business must be licensed by the Department of Taxation under the Motor Vehicle Rental Tax Act. Contact the Department of Taxation, Business Registration, P. O. Box 1115, Richmond, Virginia 23218-1115 for license information.

**SPECIALLY EQUIPPED VEHICLES**

The registration fee for any vehicle specially equipped to be driven by or to transport persons with disabilities will be based on the vehicle's empty weight prior to the installation of the special equipment.

**TRUCKS AND TRAILERS ONLY**

- Empty Weight (EW) — means the empty weight of the vehicle.
- Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) — is assigned by the manufacturer. It is the total weight of the vehicle passengers, optional components and cargo that the vehicle is designed to carry.
- Gross Weight (GW) and Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR)—indicate the combined maximum load weight (vehicle, passengers, cargo and towed trailer) that the vehicle is designed to tow.
- Register tractor-trailer units for the maximum gross weight to be carried by the combination tractor and trailer. Fees for the tractor are figured on the combined weights of both units. The trailer must be registered separately.
- Diesel Fuel Vehicles: If you maintain a storage tank for fueling vehicles contact Fuels Tax Division, P. O. Box 27422, Richmond, Virginia 23261-7422.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION****AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CALL LETTER LICENSE PLATE (\$1.00 additional fee)****To display Call Letter License Plates you must:**

- Be an amateur radio operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.
- Own the vehicle on which your Call Letter License Plates are displayed.

**ANTIQUE/VINTAGE LICENSE PLATES - NOT FOR GENERAL TRANSPORTATION USE**

- Can be issued to all vehicle types.
- Vehicle must be 25 model years old before January of the current calendar year and owned solely as a collector's item.
- License plates are valid as long as the title is vested to the owner.
- Non-transferable.
- Vehicle's use is restricted to participation in club activities, exhibits, parades and similar events; also, may drive vehicle to repair shops and to test the vehicle's operation.
- Vehicle can not be used for general transportation. However, it can be used for occasional pleasure driving not to exceed 250 miles from the residence.
- A one-time license plate registration fee is required.
- The vehicle owner must certify that they own or have regular use of another passenger car or motorcycle.

Vintage License Plates are Virginia license plates that were manufactured prior to 1976 and designed for use without decals, if such license plates are embossed with or are of the same year of issue as the vehicle on which they are to be displayed. In addition to the above requirements, these also apply:

- The physical condition of the vehicle's license plate or plates has been inspected and approved by DMV.
- The license plate or plates are registered to the specific vehicle by DMV. If more than one request is made for use of vintage license plates having the same number, DMV shall accept only the first such application.

**FARM LICENSE PLATES**

Virginia Code § 46.2-698 permits a reduced fee for license plates used on farm vehicles with a gross weight of 7,500 lbs or more when used exclusively for farm use and not operated for hire. The reduced fee is one-half that for private carriers, but not less than \$15.00. Total fees will be calculated at the time of processing.

**GREAT SEAL LICENSE PLATE**

- For passenger vehicles, pickup or panel trucks with gross weight of 10,000 lbs. or less.
- Requires \$25.00 one time fee plus regular registration fee.

**HERITAGE OR SCENIC LICENSE PLATES**

- For passenger vehicles, pick-up and panel trucks only.
- Requires one-time additional \$10.00 fee unless the original issued license plate is being replaced which will require another \$10.00 fee.
- Certain kinds of license plates are not available with the Heritage or Scenic backgrounds such as College, Great Seal, Antique, and Special Interest license plates.
- **DISABLED LICENSE PLATES:** The Heritage or Scenic License Plates are available as standard production handicap license plates. Complete form MED 10 and form VSA 14.
- **PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES:** For a personalized license plate, complete form VSA 14 and form VSA 10 (an additional \$10.00 reserve fee is required).
- **SOUVENIR LICENSE PLATES:** a \$10.00 fee is required (one license plate will be issued not for use on a motor vehicle). Complete form VSA 10 and check box marked SOUVENIR.

**PERMANENT LICENSE PLATES**

- Permanent License Plates may be issued to trailers, travel trailers, semi-trailers; trucks/tractor trucks with a GVWR or GCWR of more than 26,000 lbs.; taxis; common carrier for-hire vehicles; trucks/tractor trucks with GVWR or GCWR of 7,501 lbs. to 26,000 lbs. if used for business only or farming. Trailers pay a one-time fee. All others must pay a one or two year registration.
- **Trucks/Tractors** — You may obtain permanent license plates for trucks or tractors with a GVWR or a GCWR of more than 26,000 lbs. or 7,501 lbs. to 26,000 lbs. if the truck/tractor is owned by a business or farm. An annual or biennial registration fee is required. You will be given license plates with "Permanent" embossed on the license plate and billed every 1 or 2 years for your registration fee.
- Personalized license plates are available for an annual fee of \$10.00. It is important to note that you will continue to be billed annually or biennially for your permanent license plates until they are surrendered. If you sell your vehicle or if it is disposed of in any manner, return the license plates to any DMV Customer Service Center.
- **Trailers** — Permanent license plates are available for all trailers, regardless of weight, for a one-time fee. No additional registration fees will be required for the life of the registration. Personalized license plates are available for an additional one-time fee of \$10.00 for permanent trailer license plates. Permanent trailer license plates are not transferable or refundable.