

Vehicle Personal Property Tax: Questions & Answers

▶ **What is Vehicle Personal Property Tax?**

The Vehicle Personal Property tax is a local tax assessed on all motor vehicles (including cars, trucks and motorcycles) as well as on motor homes, trailers, semi-trailers, boats, and aircraft normally garaged or regularly parked overnight in Arlington County.

This tax also applies to vehicles that do not display Virginia license plates, inoperable vehicles, and vehicles that are “temporarily absent” from Arlington County (removed for a short period of time with the intent to return). Even if you are borrowing someone else’s vehicle, the owner of the vehicle may be liable for the tax.

▶ **If I’m new to Arlington or I have purchased a new vehicle, how soon do I need to register?**

The State of Virginia requires new residents and residents purchasing new vehicles to register their vehicles with the Virginia DMV within 30 days of entering the State, unless otherwise exempted by law. Arlington residents must register their vehicles with Arlington County within 60 days of move in or of acquiring a new vehicle.

Please Note: persons who work in Virginia for more than 60 days annually are automatically considered to be Virginia residents for vehicle registration purposes.

▶ **What if I am not a Virginia resident?**

Non-residents who do not establish a Virginia domicile can operate a vehicle in Virginia for up to six months using a valid registration from their home state, but thereafter must register their vehicles in Virginia, even if they do not intend to establish legal residence here.

▶ **Is there an annual tax for vehicles displaying out-of-state license plates?**

Owners of vehicles garaged in Arlington that carry out-of-state license plates and are not exempt from Virginia registration will be required to pay an annual fee of \$100.00. This fee is in addition to the annual Vehicle Personal Property tax and the Arlington County decal fee.

▶ **When will I receive my tax bill?**

Owners of vehicles registered in Arlington County on or before July 15th will receive a tax bill from the Treasurer which will be due on *October 5th*. If you move a vehicle into Arlington County after July 15th and file a vehicle personal property tax return within 30 days, you will receive a bill from the Treasurer with the tax amount and due date. If you pay your bill before the due date, you will avoid a late payment penalty or interest.

▶ **How do you determine the value of my vehicle?**

The Commissioner of Revenue uses one of the lowest values in recognized vehicle pricing guides, such as the *N.A.D.A. Used Car Guide*, to assess all vehicles. The actual price you paid for the vehicle may be the basis for the assessment only if the vehicle is not listed in the pricing guide.

▶ **If I sell my vehicle or move out of Arlington, will my taxes be prorated?**

Yes. The vehicle personal property tax year is from January 1st to December 31st, and vehicles are assessed based on the number of months they have a taxable situs in Arlington County. A period of half a month or more is considered a full month.

A temporary absence from Arlington County will not make your vehicle eligible for proration. If the vehicle is moved to a non-prorating Virginia locality during the tax year, you will still owe taxes to Arlington County for the full year, and the non-prorating locality will begin to assess you as of January 1 of the next year.

If your vehicle has been disposed of (sold, stolen, donated or totaled) or if you move your vehicle out of Arlington, you should notify the Commissioner of Revenue within 30 days of the change providing a disposal date and/or a new address.

▶ **Is there any possibility that I might be eligible for tax relief?**

The Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 provides tax relief for passenger cars, motorcycles and pickup or panel trucks having a registered gross weight of less than 7,501 pounds. To qualify, a vehicle must: (1) be owned by an individual, or leased by an individual under a contract requiring the individual to pay the tax; and (2) be used no more than 50% of the time for business purposes.

Qualifying vehicles shall receive 100% tax relief on the first \$3,000 of value, with the balance of relief then being equally distributed for each dollar of value up to \$20,000 in value. For any value of a qualifying vehicle in excess of \$20,000, there shall be no tax relief. You must certify annually that your vehicle remains qualified to receive tax relief.

Vehicles eligible to receive special license plates from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles for the use of clean special fuel may receive additional tax relief. This additional benefit will be reflected on your Vehicle Personal Property bill.

► Personal Property Tax Exemptions

All vehicles normally garaged or regularly parked overnight in Arlington County must register with the Commissioner of Revenue's Office and display an Arlington County decal. However, you may qualify for one of the following personal property tax exemptions.

Military exemption

If you are an active-duty member of the United States military and you have a legal residence outside of Arlington County, you may be exempt from Arlington County personal property taxes.

Student exemption

If you are a full-time student with a vehicle registered in a state that has personal property taxes and you are the sole owner of the vehicle, you may be exempt from Arlington County personal property taxes.

Government exemption

Any motor vehicle owned by the State or any political subdivision or by the United States government may be exempt from Arlington County personal property taxes.

Diplomat exemption

If you are a foreign diplomat and your vehicle is registered with the United States Department of State, you may be exempt from Arlington County personal property taxes.

Note: If your vehicle is leased, you do not qualify for personal property tax exemption.

To find out if you qualify for an exemption, call the Commissioner of Revenue's office at **703-228-4017** or find more detailed information at the Commissioner's website at www.arlingtonva.us/cor

► May I talk to someone at the office of the Commissioner of Revenue in person?

You may phone or come into the Commissioner's Compliance Office (Room 210) at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Contact Information

For Assessment Information:

Office of the Commissioner of Revenue
Phone: **(703) 228-4017**
Fax: (703) 228-3148
Email: compliance@arlingtonva.us
Website: www.arlingtonva.us/cor

For Payment Information:

Office of the Treasurer
Phone: **(703) 228-4000**
Fax: (703) 228-7436
Email: treasurer@arlingtonva.us
Website: www.arlingtonva.us/treas

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Compliance Division

*Para obtener este panfleto en Español
por favor llame 703-228-4017*



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