



Overview of South Carolina Motor Vehicle Policies

How To Register Your Vehicle

Step 1

Gather The Documents Needed

- If you are registering a vehicle for the first time in Dillon County, you will need to provide one of the following documents:
 1. Vehicle title
 2. Certificate of origin
 3. Registration
 4. Bill of sale
- You must also bring proof of your residency in Dillon County. SCDMV approved proof of SC address can be found here: [Proof of Residency](#).

Step 2

Pay Your Tax Bill On The Auto & Have It Ready To Submit To The DMV

Before you can register your vehicle with the SC Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV), you must pay the property taxes that are required in the county in which you reside. To get a tax bill in Dillon County, you must present your vehicle information and proof of residency to the Dillon County Auditor's Office in person, by mail, or by fax. The Auditor's Office contact info is:

Kay McKenzie, Auditor

401 W Main St Room 203 | P O Box 32 | Dillon, SC 29536

Phone: (843)774-1418 | Fax: (843)841-3729

Hours of Operation: 8:30 am-5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

Step 2A

If You Are Transferring An Existing Tag

If you are transferring an active tag, you may not need to pay property taxes; go directly to the SCDMV to begin the registration process.

Step 3

Visit SC Department of Motor Vehicles – Dillon Office

The South Carolina DMV operates an office in the City of Dillon.

Location

SC DMV Office – Dillon
1705 Highway 301
South
Dillon, SC 29536
Phone: 843-774-4712



Dillon SCDMB Website

[SCDMV Home Page](#)

[Driver Services \(Obtaining A Permit, License, etc.\)](#)

[Vehicle Owners \(Registration, Etc.\)](#)

[Business Customers](#)

[Forms & Manuals](#)

[Fees](#)

Hours Of Operation

Monday: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Tuesday: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Wednesday: 9:30 AM-5:00 PM
Thursday: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Step 4

Register Your Vehicle with the SCDMV

To complete registration, you must present a copy of your paid tax receipt to the SCDMV. For more information on what you must bring to the DMV for registration and for information on DMV locations and hours, visit the SCDMV website at:

[SCDMV Home Page](#) Or Call **1.803.896.5000**

How to Apply for a Refund

If you dispose of a vehicle or move out of state before the tag decal expires, you may be eligible for a partial refund for the unexpired period.

Note: transferring an active tag to another vehicle does not qualify for a partial refund since any remaining period on the transferred tag applies to the second vehicle. In order to process a refund, the Auditor's Office must have the following two documents:

1. Proof the tag has been cancelled.
 - a. To cancel your plate, please visit the [SCDMV website](#).
 - Request a tag return receipt.
2. Proof you no longer own vehicle.
 - If the vehicle was sold, we need a Bill of Sale.
 - If the vehicle has been moved out of state, we need a copy of the new registration.
 - If the vehicle was wrecked, we need the insurance letter or a copy of the police report.
 - If the vehicle was stolen, we need a copy of the police report.

In lieu of a bill of sale, out of state registration, or insurance letter, we will also accept a completed Dillon County [Vehicle Disposal Form](#). Our office cannot accept a disposal form for a vehicle reported stolen. Both documents should be sent to the Auditor's office for processing In person or Mail:

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The Dillon County Tax Collector will mail a check once refund has been processed.

How to Apply for High Mileage or Appeal Vehicle Value

Any appeal of the taxable value of your vehicle can be made by mail, fax, or in person on or before the tax due date on your bill. High mileage appeals can also be made directly through our website. Filing an appeal does not extend the due date.

High Mileage Appeal

If the mileage on your vehicle qualifies it as a high mileage vehicle, you may be eligible for a reduction on your vehicle property tax bill. Please refer to the [High Mileage Chart](#) published by the South Carolina Department of Revenue to determine if your vehicle qualifies. A high mileage reduction is only available for vehicle renewal bills and does not apply to the first property tax bill you receive after purchasing a vehicle.

[Click Here](#) To Download A Copy of the High Mileage Chart For 2021.

To complete the [High Mileage Appeal Form](#) online [click here](#).

Vehicle Appeal

The SC Department of Revenue (SCDOR) determines the value of motor vehicles within the State by using a set of nationally accepted standards and guidelines established by the auto industry. The bill you receive is based on the value provided to the Auditor's Office by SCDOR. Any appeal of the fair market value of your vehicle must be done using our Vehicle Value Appeal Affidavit and must be made by mail, fax or in person on or before the tax due date on your bill. Filing an appeal does not extend the due date. The appraisal must be done by a dealer of the vehicle make and signed by both the dealer representative and the owner. We cannot accept appraisals from CarMax or other general dealers.

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The Auditor's Office cannot accept a Vehicle Value Appeal Affidavit to appeal the value of a bill for a 120 day/dealer first-time bill. For these type bills, a bill of sale can be used to appeal a vehicle value.

SCDMV, Vehicle Registration & Property Tax Frequently Asked Questions

How do you determine what my motor vehicle is worth?

The S.C Department of Revenue (SCDOR) determines the value of motor vehicles by using a set of nationally accepted standards and guidelines established by the auto industry. County Auditors use the SCDOR Motor Vehicle Values Guide to establish the fair market value of vehicles for tax purposes. The guide lists each model and make of all available motor vehicles.

How much can I expect to pay in vehicle property taxes?

For an estimated property tax total for your vehicle, please see how to estimate vehicle property tax.

What is the assessment ratio on motor vehicles in South Carolina?

The assessment ratio is 6% for personal automobiles and personal light trucks (gross vehicle weight of 11,000 lbs. or less and a net vehicle weight of 9,000 lbs. or less). All other motor vehicles are assessed at 10.5%.

When are vehicle taxes due?

Personal property taxes on motor vehicles and recreational vehicles must be paid before a license plate can be issued or renewed. Taxes are due in the month corresponding to a vehicle registration date. This date is displayed on the tag decal.

If a South Carolina auto dealership processes the license plate registration for you, the taxes will be due 120 days after the plate is first issued.

When I bought my car, the dealership told me they would take care of the taxes and tags. Why did you send me a tax bill?

The dealership was referring to the State sales tax and the license plate registration fees. The bill you received from the County Auditor is for the County personal property tax due on the vehicle. There are two taxes for vehicle purchases in South Carolina:

- State sales tax and
- County property tax.

State sales tax is a one-time tax paid through a dealership or directly to the SCDMV at time of registration. Property tax is paid to the County annually and is based on the fair market retail value of the vehicle.

I received a tax bill on a motor vehicle that I have sold. What do I need to do?

If the bill you received is a 120 day/dealer first-time bill, please contact the Auditor's Office so that we can adjust the amount appropriately.

If it is a renewal bill for a vehicle you no longer own and you did not transfer the license plate, you may disregard the tax bill. If you transferred your license plate to a different vehicle, please contact the Auditor's Office immediately. Taxes are due on your new vehicle by the plate expiration date.

If I want to transfer my license plate to a replacement vehicle, what do I need to do?

Take the registration for your previous vehicle and the Bill of Sale for your replacement vehicle to the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles and register your replacement vehicle. You will not need to pay taxes on the replacement vehicle until the registration on your previous one expires.

How do I get a high-mileage discount?

If the mileage on your vehicle qualifies it as a high mileage vehicle, you may be eligible for a reduction on your vehicle property tax bill. You can find more information on high mileage appeals here.

If I move out of this state or sell my vehicle, what should I do with my South Carolina license plate?

If you move out of state or sell your vehicle before the tag decal expires, you may be eligible for a partial refund for the unexpired period.

What do I need to do if my address changes?

The SCDMV is the repository for vehicle registration information including addresses. The Auditor's Office relies on SCDMV to determine in which taxing district you are located and where to mail your tax bill. Visit the SCDMV website for information on how to change your address.

I received a renewal notice but don't live in Dillon County, what do I do?

If you have received a renewal notice and do not live in Dillon County, you should also contact the Auditor's Office by calling (843)774-1418.

How do I receive my renewal sticker for my vehicle?

If you pay your vehicle taxes on time, you will receive your registration renewal sticker in the mail (usually within 10 days of payment). Please make sure that your address is correct and that your insurance certification is provided when required.

The registration renewal fee charged by the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) appears on your tax bill every other year. If you pay your vehicle taxes after the expiration of your license tag, you will need to go to a local DMV office to show your paid tax receipt. A new sticker will be issued to you then in person. If this occurs in a year when you were charged a renewal fee on your tax bill, the DMV will charge you a late renewal fee at that time.