Colorado Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/colorado/ · Rates checked October 21, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Colorado? Most of the bill is the specific ownership tax, which is based on the car's original MSRP: 2.1% of 85% of MSRP in year 1 ($535.50 on a $30,000 car), falling each year. On top come a weight-based license fee ($9 for a 3,500 lb car), the $12 age fee, FASTER road and bridge surcharges ($37.30) and small clerk fees. Buying adds a $7.20 title, $8.06 plates and sales tax: 2.9% state plus local taxes by address (8.15% in Broomfield).

Fees at a glance (2026)

Specific ownership tax	85% of MSRP (light trucks 75%) x 2.1% in year 1, 1.5%, 1.2%, 0.9%, 0.45%, then $3
License fee, passenger car	$6 + $0.20 per 100 lbs over 2,000 ($9 at 3,500 lbs)
Age-of-vehicle fee	$12 under 7 years, $10 to 10 years, $7 after
FASTER surcharges (2,001 - 5,000 lbs)	$19.30 road safety (to June 2027, then $23) + $18 bridge safety
Other registration fees	$4 clerk + $1.50 road and bridge + $2 EMS + $1 P.O.S.T. + $0.50 + $0.50 AIR (+ $0.70 emissions area)
Electric vehicle fees	$60.05 plug-in fee (last published) + $26 road usage fee (plug-in hybrid $13)
Title / plates	$7.20 / $8.06 a pair
Sales tax	2.9% state + local by address (Broomfield 8.15%)

Starting example

Example for a $30,000 car. Change the inputs on the calculator page for your own figures.

Specific ownership tax (1 yr) 2.1% of 85% of MSRP, year 1	$535.50
License fee By empty weight	$9.00
Age-of-vehicle fee Under 7 years old	$12.00
Road Safety Surcharge Reduced rate through June 2027	$19.30
Bridge Safety Surcharge	$18.00
Clerk hire fee	$4.00
County road and bridge fee	$1.50
Emergency medical services fee	$2.00
P.O.S.T. fee	$1.00
Additional registration fee	$0.50
AIR account fee	$0.50

Emissions program area fee	$0.70
Title fee	$7.20
License plates Pair, digital plates and tab	$8.06
Sales tax 8.15% of price	$2,445.00
Estimated total	**$3,064.26**

What this estimate does and does not include

• Specific ownership tax: a yearly tax in place of property tax, on 85% of the original MSRP for cars and motorcycles (75% for personal-use light trucks), at 2.1% in the first year, 1.5%, 1.2%, 0.9%, then 0.45% in years 5 to 9 and $3 from year 10. The value is fixed when the vehicle is new, so a used car's purchase price doesn't change it.

• FASTER Road Safety Surcharge: reduced by $3.70 for registration periods in FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 ($19.30 for most cars), back to $23 from July 1, 2027. Pick the period your registration starts in.

• Electric vehicles: the plug-in vehicle fee is adjusted for inflation every July, but the FY 2026-27 amount isn't published. We use the last published amount, $60.05, so an electric total here is a floor: the real bill can be slightly higher. The road usage equalization fee is $26 (plug-in hybrids $13) for periods from July 2026 and $36 ($16) from July 2027.

• Trucks: the license fee for pickups is set by a declared gross weight table that wasn't available from an official page, so it shows as not available. Heavier trucks (over 10,000 lbs) aren't covered.

• Motorcycles: $3 license fee, $4 motorcycle safety surcharge and motorcycle FASTER rates, no age fee. The price of a single motorcycle plate isn't published (only the $8.06 pair), so it shows as not available.

• Sales tax: 2.9% state plus county, city and district taxes for your registration address; the trade-in value is excluded. Broomfield is the example because its county page lists every part of its 8.15% rate.

• Not included: the Motorist Insurance Identification Fee (set each year, current amount not published), the optional $29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass, the $35 emissions test (new cars are exempt for 7 years), the $25 VIN verification for out-of-state vehicles and county card fees. There is no separate late title fee; late registration is $25 a month, up to $100.

Official sources

City and County of Broomfield - Motor vehicle title and registration fees (title $7.20; specific ownership tax on 85% of MSRP for cars, 75% for light trucks, 2.1 / 1.5 / 1.2 / 0.9 / 0.45%, then $3; sales tax 2.9% state + 1.1% RTD + 3.75% city + 0.4% county = 8.15%)
https://www.broomfield.org/1277/Motor-Vehicle-Title-and-Registration-Fee
Checked October 21, 2026

Boulder County - Motor vehicle fees and taxes (lien filing $40; Road Safety Surcharge $12.30 / $19.30 / $24.30 through June 30, 2027, then $16 / $23 / $28; Bridge Safety Surcharge $13 / $18 / $23)
https://www.bouldercounty.org/records/motor-vehicle/additional-motor-vehicle-resources/fees-and-taxes/
Checked October 21, 2026

Colorado DMV - Vehicle taxes and fees (specific ownership tax, plug-in vehicle fees, Keep Colorado Wild Pass)
https://dmv.colorado.gov/taxes-and-fees
Checked October 21, 2026

Colorado DMV - Motor Vehicle Registration Fees fact sheet (clerk hire $4; county road and bridge $1.50, $2.50 motorcycles)
https://dmv.colorado.gov/sites/dmv/files/Motor%20Vehicle%20Registration%20Fees.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

Colorado General Assembly - HB 18-1347 fiscal note (EMS $2, P.O.S.T. $1, additional registration $0.50, motorcycle safety $4, diesel emissions $10, plug-in vehicle fee base $50)
https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018A/bills/fn/2018a_hb1347_f1.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

Colorado General Assembly - SB 25-258 fiscal note (Road Safety Surcharge reduced $3.70 for FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27)
https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025A/bills/fn/2025a_sb258_r2.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

Colorado General Assembly - HB 22-1388 fiscal note (digital passenger plate and tab production fee $8.06 a pair)
https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/fn/2022a_hb1388_f1.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

U.S. DOE Alternative Fuels Data Center - summary of C.R.S. 42-3-304 (plug-in electric vehicle fee $60.05 for FY 2025-26, the last published inflation-adjusted amount; road usage equalization fee schedule BEV $26 / PHEV $13 in FY 2026-27, $36 / $16 in FY 2027-28)
https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/11486
Checked October 21, 2026

Colorado Department of Revenue - Sales and use tax topics: motor vehicle sales (2.9% state; trade-in value excluded; local taxes by registration address)
https://tax.colorado.gov/sales-use-tax-topics-motor-vehicle-sales
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (county clerks as agents). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/colorado/