Massachusetts Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/massachusetts/ · Rates checked October 14, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Massachusetts? A standard passenger registration is $60 for two years. When you buy, add a $75 title fee, a $35 inspection within 7 days and 6.25% sales tax: $2,045 in total for a $30,000 car from a dealer. Electric cars pay the same $60, with no extra EV fee.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration (standard passenger)	$60 / 2 yrs
Electric vehicle fee	none (EVs pay the same $60)
Certificate of title	$75
Registration (plate) transfer	$25
Inspection (within 7 days)	$35/yr
Sales tax	6.25% (private sale: price or book value, whichever is higher)
Motor vehicle excise (local, yearly)	$25 per $1,000 of value

Starting example

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

Registration (2 years) Standard plate; may be pro-rated	$60.00
Certificate of title	$75.00
Inspection Within 7 days, paid at the station	$35.00
Sales tax 6.25% of price	$1,875.00
Estimated total	**$2,045.00**

What this estimate does and does not include

• Registration: the RMV schedule of fees (revised May 2025) lists a standard passenger registration at $60, renewed every two years. The schedule marks it as pro-rated by month, so a first registration can cost less than $60; we show the full $60 because the RMV does not publish the pro-rating method.

• Electric vehicles: the schedule lists electric registration at $60 every two years, the same as a standard passenger car, and no separate EV or plug-in hybrid fee.

• Plates: the schedule lists no separate charge for a standard passenger plate. Transferring a plate from a car you sold or traded costs $25 (Transfer Registration). Whether the RMV adds a pro-rated registration charge on a transfer is not published, so that part is shown as not available.

• Inspection: you must get an inspection sticker within 7 days of registering. The annual inspection fee is $35, paid at the inspection station, not to the RMV.

• Sales tax is 6.25%. At a dealer registered with the Department of Revenue, it is charged on the price minus any trade-in you paid tax on. If the dealer is not registered with the Department of Revenue, the RMV uses the price or the

NADA book value, whichever is higher. In a private sale, tax is on the price or the NADA clean trade-in value, whichever is higher, and no trade-in deduction is allowed.

• Family transfers between spouses, parents and children, and brothers and sisters are exempt from sales and use tax with Form MVU-26, as long as the previous owner paid any Massachusetts sales or use tax due on the car.

• New residents must register as soon as they become Massachusetts residents; there is no grace period. A car bought and registered in your old state for more than 6 months is exempt from Massachusetts sales tax (Form MVU-29). If you bought it less than 6 months before moving, use tax may be due with a credit for tax paid to some states; that case is not covered here (not available).

• Excise: every year your city or town bills a motor vehicle excise of $25 per $1,000 of value (MGL ch. 60A, s. 1). The value is a share of the manufacturer's list price: 50% the year before the model year, 90% in the model year, then 60%, 40%, 25% and 10% from the fifth year. A car first registered after January pays only the months from its registration month to December. The minimum bill is $5. The excise is optional in this calculator because it is billed later, not paid at the RMV.

• Not included: special and vanity plates (a $40 to $50 special-plate fee; vanity plates renew yearly), adding or removing a lienholder ($25), duplicate title or registration ($25), late excise payment fee ($20) and reinstatement fees.

Official sources

Massachusetts RMV – Schedule of Fees (REV200_0525, revised May 2025): passenger registration $60 biennial, electric $60, title $75, transfer registration $25, inspection $35
https://www.mass.gov/doc/rmv-schedule-of-fees/download
Checked October 15, 2026

Massachusetts RMV – Registry of Motor Vehicles fees (list current as of May 2025)
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-registry-of-motor-vehicles-fees
Checked October 15, 2026

Massachusetts DOR – Motor Vehicle and Trailer Sales and Use Tax (6.25%; private sales on the greater of price or book value; trade-in at dealers only; family exemption)
https://www.mass.gov/guides/motor-vehicle-and-trailer-sales-and-use-tax
Checked October 15, 2026

Massachusetts DOR – Form MVU-26, family transfer exemption (spouse, son, daughter, mother, father, sister, brother)
https://www.mass.gov/doc/form-mvu-26-affidavit-in-support-of-a-claim-for-exemption-from-sales-or-use-tax-for-a-motor-vehicle-transferred-within-a-family/download
Checked October 14, 2026

Massachusetts RMV – Transfer your registration and title from out of state (register as soon as you become a resident; 6-month tax exemption, Form MVU-29; inspection within 7 days)
https://www.mass.gov/how-to/transfer-your-registration-and-title-from-out-of-state
Checked October 15, 2026

Massachusetts RMV – Vehicles purchased from a dealer checklist ($75 title fee plus registration fee plus sales tax)
https://www.mass.gov/doc/vehicle-purchased-from-dealer-checklist/download
Checked October 15, 2026

Massachusetts General Laws ch. 60A, s. 1 – motor vehicle excise ($25 per $1,000; valuation table; proration; $5 minimum)
https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleIX/Chapter60A/Section1
Checked October 15, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/massachusetts/