Montana Car Registration Fees (2026)

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

How much does it cost to register a car in Montana? $217 a year for a car 0-4 years old ($87 at 5-10, $28 at 11 and older), plus your county's option tax on the depreciated MSRP, $10 Highway Patrol and $9 state parks fees and a 3% administrative fee. A new $30,000 car in Yellowstone County pays $406.85 with title and plates. Montana has no sales tax. Electric cars add $130 a year.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, car or light truck	$217/yr age 0-4, $87 age 5-10, $28 age 11+
County option tax	Up to 0.7% of depreciated MSRP (Yellowstone County 0.5%)
Per-vehicle fees	$10 Highway Patrol, $9 state parks (opt-out), 3% MVD admin fee
Electric / plug-in hybrid fee	$130 / $70 a year under 6,000 lbs
Title and plates	$12 title (light vehicle), $12 plates
Motorcycle	Permanent: $53.25 one-time + $16 safety fee
Sales tax	None

Starting example

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

Registration (1 yr) Age 0-4	$217.00
County option tax 0.5% of $27,000 (90% of MSRP)	$135.00
Title fee	$12.00
Plates	$12.00
Highway Patrol fee	$10.00
State parks fee Unless you opt out in writing	$9.00
MVD administrative fee (3%) 3% of $395.00	$11.85
Estimated total	**$406.85**

What this estimate does and does not include

• Montana has no sales tax on vehicles. Instead, registration is by age ($217 / $87 / $28) plus a county option tax, voter-approved, of up to 0.7% of the MSRP depreciated by the MVD table (or a flat fee). Yellowstone County charges 0.5%; for other counties enter the rate or leave the tax out.

• Depreciation: only the first years of the MVD table were confirmed (cars 90% at age 0 and 80% at age 1; SUVs 98%, vans 93%, trucks 96% at age 0). For other ages and body types the county option tax shows as not available.

• The 3% MVD administrative fee (MCA 61-3-111) is figured on the whole transaction, following the Yellowstone County

schedule; the calculator shows it as its own line.

• Cars 11 years and older can be registered permanently for a one-time $87.50 plus 5 times the county option tax (and $10 Highway Patrol, $6 parks); permanent registration ends when the car is sold. It isn't calculated here. A luxury surcharge of $825 a year applies when the MSRP is over $150,000 and the car is 10 years old or newer.

• Motorcycles are registered permanently, once: $53.25 street use or $114.50 street and off-highway, $16 safety fee, $10 Highway Patrol, $10 title and a $12 plate, + 3%. There is no yearly renewal.

• Electric and plug-in hybrid fees: $130 / $70 under 6,000 lbs and $190 / $100 from 6,000 to 10,000 lbs, every year. From July 1, 2028 the EV fee for residents drops 30%; title fees drop to $7 / $5 on the same date.

• Not included: trucks over 1 ton, motor homes, trailers, the optional $5 fee, specialty plates. No late renewal fee is published. Titling more than 40 days after the sale costs $10.

Official sources

Montana MVD - Light vehicle registration and fees (age bands $217 / $87 / $28; age = year due minus model year; 12-month, 24-month and permanent registration; 3% administrative fee; county option tax depreciation table)
https://mvdmt.gov/vehicle-registration/light-vehicle-registration-and-fees
Checked October 21, 2026

Montana Code 61-3-321 (registration fees, luxury surcharge $825, motorcycles one-time $53.25 / $114.50 + $16 safety fee, plates $12, Highway Patrol $10, state parks $9 unless opted out)
https://mca.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0610/chapter_0030/part_0030/section_0210/0610-0030-0030-0210.html
Checked October 21, 2026

Montana Code 61-3-537 (county option tax up to 0.7% of depreciated value or a flat fee)
https://mca.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0610/chapter_0030/part_0050/section_0370/0610-0030-0050-0370.html
Checked October 21, 2026

Montana Code 61-3-562 (permanent registration for light vehicles 11 years or older: $87.50 + 5x county option tax)
http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0610/chapter_0030/part_0050/section_0620/0610-0030-0050-0620.html
Checked October 21, 2026

Montana Code 61-10-201 (GVW fee for trucks: 1/2 ton $7, 3/4 ton $12.50, 1 ton $17.50)
https://mca.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0610/chapter_0100/part_0020/section_0010/0610-0100-0020-0010.html
Checked October 21, 2026

Montana Legislative Services - EV and PHEV fee bill text, MCA 61-3-571 to 573 (annual EV $130 / $190, PHEV $70 / $100 by weight class, at initial and renewal registration)
https://archive.legmt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2021-2022/Transportation/Final%20Intrium%20Documents/EVs_V4-editedHB_Final%20.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

Yellowstone County Treasurer - Motor vehicle fee schedules (county option tax 0.5%; title $12 light vehicle / $10 other; 3% MVD administrative fee on all MVD financial transactions)
https://www.yellowstonecountymt.gov/Treasurer/MotorV/schedules.asp
Checked October 21, 2026

Montana Department of Revenue - General sales tax (Montana has no general sales tax)
https://revenue.mt.gov/taxes/general-sales-tax
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Montana Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) and county treasurers. The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/montana/