South Carolina Car Registration Fees (2026)

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

How much does it cost to register a car in South Carolina? Registration is $40 for two years. Buying a car adds the $15 title and the one-time Infrastructure Maintenance Fee: 5% of the price, capped at $500, which replaces sales tax. Electric cars add $120 and hybrids $60 every two years. On top, you pay your county's vehicle property tax every year, before the DMV will register the car.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, passenger car	$40 for 2 years ($38 age 64, $36 age 65+ or disability)
Truck	$30 - $110 for 2 years by gross weight (up to 11,000 lbs)
Motorcycle	$10 for 2 years
Electric / hybrid fee	$120 / $60 every 2 years
Title fee	$15 ($35 expedited)
Infrastructure Maintenance Fee	5% of the price, max $500 (instead of sales tax); $250 for new residents
County vehicle property tax	Paid yearly to your county first, not in our total

Starting example

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

Registration (2 yrs)	$40.00
County vehicle property tax Paid to your county first; not in this total	not available
Title fee	$15.00
Infrastructure Maintenance Fee 5% of price, capped at $500	$500.00
Estimated total	**$555.00**

The total leaves out items marked "not available".

What this estimate does and does not include

• County vehicle property tax is not in the total. You must pay it to your county (the auditor sends the bill, the treasurer collects) before the SCDMV will register or renew. It's the vehicle's value from the Department of Revenue guide x the assessment ratio x your local millage, so there is no statewide amount. It's billed every year, while registration is every two years.

• Infrastructure Maintenance Fee (IMF): one time, at the first South Carolina titling. Dealer sale: 5% of the price after a trade-in, at most $500. Private sale: 5% of fair market value, at most $500. A vehicle you already registered in another state: $250. Vehicles that pay the IMF are exempt from sales and use tax.

• Electric and hybrid fees are paid every two years with the registration. The SCDMV lists only 'Hybrids' ($60) and 'Electric vehicles' ($120); a plug-in hybrid uses fuel and electricity, so it is in the $60 group, but the SCDMV has no separate plug-in line.

• Trucks over 11,000 lbs gross weight and electric motorcycles aren't covered by the fee table we have, so they show as not available.

• Plate transfer: moving your own plate to another vehicle you own or lease is $10 (S.C. Code §56-3-1290). The calculator assumes a new registration, so the $10 isn't in the total.

• Not included: specialty plates, card fees ($1 + 1.7%). The SCDMV lists no separate fee for a standard plate and no separate late title penalty.

Official sources

SCDMV - Fees (title $15, expedited $35 in person; registration $40 for 2 years, $38 owner age 64, $36 age 65+ or disability; motorcycles $10; trucks by gross vehicle weight $30 - $110 up to 11,000 lbs; electric vehicle fee $120 and hybrid $60 on top of registration; Infrastructure Maintenance Fee 5% of the purchase price, max $500, $250 for a vehicle previously registered in another state; late registration and late renewal penalties)
https://dmv.sc.gov/Fees
Checked October 21, 2026

SCDMV - Registration (pay your county property taxes first and bring the paid receipt; plates come with the registration)
https://dmv.sc.gov/Vehicle-Owners/Registration
Checked October 21, 2026

SCDMV - Renew my registration (registration every two years; property taxes paid yearly to the county before renewal)
https://dmv.sc.gov/vehicle-owners/registration/renew-my-registration
Checked October 21, 2026

SC Department of Revenue - Information Letter #22-17 (IMF 5% of the sale price, or of fair market value for a private sale, not to exceed $500; vehicles subject to the IMF are exempt from sales and use tax; $250 for vehicles registered in another state)
https://dor.sc.gov/sites/dor/files/policies/IL22-17.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

Lexington County Auditor - Motor vehicle tax (fair market value x assessment ratio x millage)
https://lex-co.sc.gov/departments/auditor/auditor-faqs/motor-vehicle-tax
Checked October 21, 2026

S.C. Code Title 56, Chapter 3 - §56-3-1290 ($10 to transfer your own plate to another vehicle you own or lease)
https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t56c003.php
Checked October 23, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/south-carolina/