South Dakota Car Registration Fees (2026)

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

How much does it cost to register a car in South Dakota? $72 a year for a car with a shipping weight of 2,001 to 4,000 lbs ($36 to $144 by weight, 70% once it's 10 years old), plus the county wheel tax ($16 in Minnehaha County), $1 solid waste, $1 Highway Patrol and a $2 technology fee: $92 a year. Buying adds the $10 title, another $2 technology fee and the 4% excise tax: $1,304 on a $30,000 car. Electric cars pay $100 a year more.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, car or pickup	$36 / $72 / $108 / $144 a year by shipping weight (70% at 10+ years)
Motorcycle	$18 - $24 a year by engine size + $7 safety fee
Other yearly fees	$1 solid waste, $1 Highway Patrol, $2 technology fee per transaction
County wheel tax	Up to $5 a wheel (Minnehaha $4, $16 a car)
Electric vehicle fee	$100 a year
Title fee	$10
Excise tax	4% of price less trade-in

Starting example

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

Registration (1 yr) By shipping weight	$72.00
County wheel tax 4 wheels	$16.00
Solid waste fee	$1.00
Highway Patrol fee	$1.00
Technology fee Title and registration transactions	$4.00
Title fee	$10.00
Motor vehicle excise tax 4% of price	$1,200.00
Estimated total	**$1,304.00**

What this estimate does and does not include

• South Dakota has no sales tax on vehicle purchases; instead the 4% motor vehicle excise tax is paid at titling, on the price less a dealer trade-in (titled in your name). Private sales pay the same 4%.

• License fee by shipping weight (SDCL 32-5-6) for cars, pickups and vans: $36 to 2,000 lbs, $72 to 4,000, $108 to 6,000, $144 over; 70% once the vehicle is 10 years old (SDCL 32-5-30). Pickups over 6,000 lbs may instead license by gross weight (not covered).

• Wheel tax is set by each county (up to $5 a wheel, capped). Minnehaha County: $4 a wheel to 6,000 lbs, $5 over, $60 maximum: $16 for a car, $8 for a motorcycle. For other counties it shows as not available.

• The $2 technology fee is charged per transaction: once for the title and once for the registration on a purchase, once on a renewal.

• Electric vehicles pay $100 a year (SDCL 32-5-2.11); electric motorcycles and hybrids pay no extra fee.

• No late renewal penalty is specified by the DOR. Not included: plate reassignment ($5), plate mailing ($12) and decal mailing ($2.50).

Official sources

SD DOR - All vehicles: title fees and registration (title $10; 4% motor vehicle excise tax; lien $10; plate reassignment $5; plate mailing $12; no late renewal penalty specified)
https://dor.sd.gov/individuals/motor-vehicle/all-vehicles-title-fees-registration/?&page=1
Checked October 21, 2026

SD DOR - Noncommercial vehicle license fee schedule (shipping weight: $36 to 2,000 lbs, $72 to 4,000, $108 to 6,000, $144 over; 70% at 10 years and older)
https://dor.sd.gov/media/qoolm3x4/non-commercial-vehicle-license-fee.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

SD DOR - Motorcycle fee schedule ($18 / $21 / $24 by engine size + $7 safety fee)
https://dor.sd.gov/media/5u1mrs31/motorcycle-fee-schedule.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

SD DOR - Cars, trucks and vans (solid waste fee $1, Highway Patrol fee $1, technology fee $2 per transaction; standard plate cost = the license fee)
https://dor.sd.gov/individuals/motor-vehicle/cars-trucks-vans/
Checked October 21, 2026

SD DOR - County wheel tax table, revised 1/2026 (Minnehaha $4 a wheel to 6,000 lbs, $5 over, $60 maximum)
https://dor.sd.gov/businesses/motor-vehicle/county-wheel-tax/
Checked October 21, 2026

Minnehaha County wheel tax ordinance (MC19-91 as amended, MC68-25)
https://www.minnehahacounty.gov/residents/countyOrdinances/wheel_tax/WheelTaxOrdinance.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

SDCL 32-5B-1 and 32-5B-4 (4% excise tax on purchase price; trade-in credit)
https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes?Statute=32-5B-4
Checked October 21, 2026

SDCL 32-5-6, 32-5-30 (license fee by shipping weight; 70% after 10 years) and 32-5-2.11 (electric vehicle fee $100 a year)
https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes?Statute=32-5-2.11
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with South Dakota Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division (county treasurers). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/south-dakota/