Washington Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/washington/ · Rates checked October 20, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Washington? Car tabs start at $83 a year: a $30 license fee, a weight fee of $35 to $96 by the car's empty weight, and $18 in filing, service and plate technology fees. Electric cars pay $225 more at renewal and hybrids $75. Inside the Sound Transit district you also pay 1.1% of the car's depreciated value, and many cities add a local fee. Buying a car adds title fees ($64.50 at a dealer), plates ($104) and sales tax: 7% state plus your local rate.

Fees at a glance (2026)

License fee	$30/yr (cars, SUVs, motorcycles)
Weight fee	$35 – $96/yr by scale weight
Filing and service fees	$17.75 per registration
Truck license fee	$54.05 (4,000 lbs) – $3,376.20 (105,500 lbs; $3,468 towing a trailer) a year
Electric / hybrid fee (renewals)	$225 / $75 a year
Title fees	$64.50 (dealer sale) / $39.50
License plates	$104 (two) / $22 motorcycle
RTA tax (Sound Transit district)	1.1% of depreciated value
Sales tax	6.5% + 0.5% motor vehicle tax + local

Starting example

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

License fee (1 yr) Passenger car or SUV	$30.00
Weight fee (1 yr) By scale weight	$35.00
Filing and service fees $6 filing + $11 service + $0.75 license service	$17.75
Plate technology fee Every registration application	$0.25
Title fees $40 application + $6.50 filing + $18 service	$64.50
License plates Two plates at $50 + $2	$104.00
Sales tax (state part) 6.5% + 0.5% motor vehicle tax	$2,100.00
Local sales tax Enter your combined rate	not available

Estimated total **$2,351.50**

The total leaves out items marked "not available".

What this estimate does and does not include

• Washington changed its fees on January 1, 2026: the weight fee went from $25-$72 to $35-$96, the filing fee from $4.50 to $6, the service fee from $8 to $11 and the license service fee to $0.75. The title application fee on a dealer sale or lease became $40 on October 1, 2026 ($15 for other title applications). Older pages show the old amounts. The DOL's tab fee page still lists a $43.25 basic fee: that is the pre-2026 stack ($30 + $4.50 filing + $8 service + $0.50 license service + $0.25 plate technology).

• Trucks, pickups included, pay a license fee by declared gross weight instead of the $30 license and weight fees: from $81.60 at 6,000 lbs to $3,376.20 at 105,500 lbs (Schedule A) after the 2% increase of July 1, 2026 (statute amounts x 1.02, rounded to 5 cents). Trucks that tow a trailer use Schedule B, which costs more only above 40,000 lbs ($3,468 at 105,500 lbs). Trucks at 12,000 lbs or less add $10; over 10,000 lbs add a 15% freight project fee. Farm trucks aren't covered.

• Electric and hybrid fees are collected at renewal: electric cars and plug-in hybrids with 30+ electric miles pay $100 + $50 + $75 a year, hybrids $75 and electric motorcycles $30. We don't show a hybrid fee for motorcycles because the statute doesn't settle it.

• RTA tax (Sound Transit district only): 1.1% of the vehicle's value: for cars 85% of the base MSRP, for trucks the latest purchase price, reduced by the state depreciation schedule each year of service. Outside the district it is $0.

• Sales tax: a dealer charges the rate for its location, made up of 6.5% state sales tax + 0.5% motor vehicle tax (0.3% before January 1, 2026) + local tax, on the price less any trade-in. Private and out-of-state purchases and new residents pay use tax at the rate for their address, less sales tax paid to another state. If you leave the rate blank we show the 7% state part and mark the local part as not available.

• Local transportation benefit district fees ($0 to $100) are set city by city; enter yours from your renewal notice. There is no DOL late fee for renewing tabs late, and no emissions test (the program ended January 1, 2020).

• Not included: specialty and personalized plates, quick title ($50), trucks over 105,500 lbs and farm trucks.

Official sources

RCW 46.17.350 (license fee $30 for passenger cars, SUVs and motorcycles)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.350
Checked October 20, 2026

RCW 46.17.365 (motor vehicle weight fee by scale weight from January 1, 2026: $35 up to 4,000 lbs, $65 to 6,000, $82.50 to 8,000, $96 over 8,000; 2025 c 417)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.365
Checked October 20, 2026

RCW 46.17.355 (trucks: license fee by declared gross weight, $53 at 4,000 lbs to $3,310 (Schedule A) / $3,400 (Schedule B, trailers) at 105,500 lbs, adjusted up 2% a year from July 1, 2026; $10 additional weight fee at 12,000 lbs or less; 15% freight project fee over 10,000 lbs)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.355
Checked October 20, 2026

RCW 46.17.005, 46.17.040 and 46.17.025 (filing fees $6 registration / $6.50 title; service fees $11 registration / $18 title; license service fee $0.75)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.040
Checked October 20, 2026

RCW 46.17.015 (license plate technology fee $0.25 on every registration application, separate from the $0.75 license service fee of RCW 46.17.025)

https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.015
Checked October 23, 2026

RCW 46.17.100 (title application fee $15; $40 on a dealer retail sale or lease from October 1, 2026, 2026 c 186) and 46.17.140 (late title transfer: $50 on the 16th day, $2 a day after, $125 maximum)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.100
Checked October 20, 2026

RCW 46.17.200 (plates: $50 per plate + $2 reflectivity for cars and trucks, $20 + $2 for motorcycles) and 46.17.120 (stolen vehicle check $50 + $25 from July 1, 2026 for vehicles from another state)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.200
Checked October 20, 2026

RCW 46.17.323 and 46.17.324 (electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids with 30+ electric miles: $100 + $50 at renewal, plus $75 transportation electrification fee; hybrids $75; electric motorcycles $30)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.17.323
Checked October 20, 2026

RCW 82.44.035 (vehicle valuation and depreciation schedules used for the RTA tax)
https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.44.035
Checked October 20, 2026

Washington DOL – Regional Transit Authority (RTA) tax (Sound Transit district in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties; 1.1% of the depreciated value)
https://dol.wa.gov/vehicles-and-boats/vehicles/taxes-and-fees/regional-transit-authority-rta-tax
Checked October 20, 2026

Washington DOL – Local transportation benefit district fees (up to $20 without a public vote, up to $100 with one; collected at tab renewal)
https://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicles-and-boats/taxes-fuel-tax-and-other-fees/local-transportation-benefit-district-fees
Checked October 20, 2026

Washington DOL – Calculate vehicle tab fees (filing fee $6, $30 license fee, service fees $11 registration / $29 title with registration, $0.75 license service fee)
https://dol.wa.gov/vehicles-and-boats/vehicles/vehicle-registration/calculate-vehicle-tab-fees
Checked October 20, 2026

Washington Department of Revenue, motor vehicle sales/use tax (0.5% motor vehicle tax from January 1, 2026, on top of the 6.5% state sales or use tax)
https://dor.wa.gov/taxes-rates/other-taxes/motor-vehicle-salesuse-tax
Checked October 20, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/washington/