Wisconsin Car Registration Fees (2026)

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

How much does it cost to register a car in Wisconsin? $85 a year, plus any wheel tax your county and municipality charge (Madison and Dane County together add $80). Electric cars pay a $175 surcharge and hybrids $75 every year. Buying a car adds the $214.50 title, $6 per plate and sales tax: 5% state plus 0.5% county tax in most counties, more in Milwaukee.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, passenger car	$85/yr
Truck	$100 (up to 6,000 lbs) - $2,816 (80,000 lbs) a year by gross weight
Motorcycle	$23 for 2 years
Electric / hybrid surcharge	$175 / $75 a year (plug-in hybrids pay the hybrid rate)
Wheel tax	Set by some counties and municipalities, $10 - $50 each (Madison + Dane County $80)
Title / plates	$214.50 / $6 per plate
Sales tax	5% state + 0.5% county (0.9% Milwaukee County, + 2% City of Milwaukee)

Starting example

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

Registration (1 yr) Automobile	$85.00
County wheel tax	$40.00
Municipal wheel tax	$40.00
Title fee	$214.50
License plates 2 plates x $6	$12.00
Sales tax 5.5% of price	$1,650.00
Estimated total	**$2,041.50**

What this estimate does and does not include

• Wheel tax: counties, cities, villages and towns may each add an annual fee, collected with the registration and at every renewal. A county and a municipal wheel tax can both apply. It covers cars and trucks of 8,000 lbs or less, not motorcycles. The lists come from WisDOT's wheel tax page.

• Electric and hybrid surcharges are yearly, at first registration and every renewal, for cars and trucks registered at 8,000 lbs or less. WisDOT publishes only 'hybrid' ($75) and 'electric' ($175); a plug-in hybrid can run on fuel, so it falls under the statute's hybrid definition and pays $75. Motorcycles don't pay a surcharge.

• Sales tax: 5% state plus county tax where the vehicle is kept (0.5%, or 0.9% in Milwaukee County) plus 2% in the City of Milwaukee. The official county-by-county list wasn't readable, so for other counties type your rate. Dealer and private sales are taxed the same way; a trade-in counts only in the same transaction.

• Trucks pay by maximum gross weight from the WisDOT chart effective on or after October 1, 2025 (10% higher than before).

• Not included: counter service fees ($5 title, $3 renewal at a DMV service center; up to $38 / $16.25 at third-party providers), card fees, the emissions test in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Washington and Waukesha counties (fee not published), and the fast-service title fee (no amount published). There's no scheduled late title fee; failing to title right away can bring a forfeiture of up to $200. The title fee is $0 only when a car passes on after the owner dies (Form MV2300); a living family member who buys the car pays the full $214.50.

Official sources

WisDOT - DMV fees (title $214.50, family transfer $0, lien $10; automobile $85 a year, motorcycle $23 for 2 years; truck chart effective on or after October 1, 2025, $100 at 4,500 lbs to $2,816 at 80,000 lbs; $6 per plate issuance fee; electric surcharge $175, hybrid $75; late renewal $10)
https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/vehicles/title-plates/dmv-fees.aspx
Checked October 21, 2026

WisDOT - Municipal or county vehicle registration fee (wheel tax): list of counties and municipalities and their amounts; applies to automobiles and trucks of 8,000 lbs or less, not motorcycles
https://www.wisconsindot.gov/pages/dmv/vehicles/title-plates/wheeltax.aspx
Checked October 21, 2026

WisDOT - Form MV1, Wisconsin Title and License Plate Application (state sales tax 5%; plate issuance $12, $6 per plate; no charge to transfer current plates)
https://mv1.wi.gov/Home/Print?formId=a7d50f07-1c3b-41d5-93dc-8db916e339c3
Checked October 21, 2026

Wisconsin Statutes 341.25 (registration fees; hybrid $75 and nonhybrid electric $175 surcharges for automobiles and trucks of 8,000 lbs or less; 10% truck fee increase on October 1, 2025)
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/341/ii/25/1/j/1
Checked October 21, 2026

Wisconsin Department of Revenue - County and city sales and use taxes FAQ (state 5%; county 0.5% or 0.9% Milwaukee County; City of Milwaukee 2%)
https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/FAQS/pcs-county.aspx
Checked October 21, 2026

Wisconsin Administrative Code Tax 11.83(8) (taxable price of a motor vehicle is the price minus the trade-in allowance when the sale and trade-in are one transaction)
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/tax/11/ix/83/8
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles (WisDOT DMV). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/wisconsin/