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Motor Vehicle Sales and Purchases

The purpose of this Tax Fact is to explain how South Dakota state and local taxes apply to motor vehicle dealers. It is not intended to answer all questions that may arise. The information contained in this fact sheet is current as of the date of publication.

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Motor Vehicle Sales and Purchases

With few exceptions, the sale of products and services in South Dakota are subject to sales tax or use tax. One exception is the sale or purchase of a motor vehicle which is subject to the motor vehicle excise tax.

- Dealers are not required to collect or pay the motor vehicle excise tax on motor vehicles they sell.
- Dealers are required to collect the state sales tax and any applicable municipal sales tax, municipal gross receipts tax, and tourism tax on any vehicle, product, or service they sell that is subject to sales tax in South Dakota.

Motor vehicles are not subject to the motor vehicle excise tax if:

- **The purchaser requests and is approved for a title only included in [SDCL 32-3-4](#).**
 - * In limited situations, a purchaser may obtain a title without payment of the motor vehicle excise tax. This only applies to vehicles that will not be operated on streets and highways or waterways of South Dakota or any state and must be hauled or transported to their destination.
 - * The purchaser must request the title only tax exemption within 45 days of the date of purchase and prior to a title being issued.
 - * Only certain vehicles qualify for a title only. For a list of approved vehicles, see page 204 of the [Motor Vehicle Procedure Manual](#). Contact your County Treasurer with questions or to apply for a title only.
 - * **Vehicles approved for a title only are subject to use tax.**
 - The purchaser is responsible for contacting the Department of Revenue to pay the 4.5% state use tax, plus applicable municipal use tax.
 - Use tax is not due if the vehicle is purchased from a person and not from a business.
 - All sales of vehicles by auction are subject to either sales or use tax or motor vehicle excise tax unless exempt under [SDCL 32-5B-2](#).
- **The vehicle is exempt from motor vehicle excise tax under [SDCL 32-5B-2](#).**
 - * Motor vehicles exempt from the motor vehicle excise tax under [SDCL 32-5B-2](#) are also exempt from sales tax.
 - * This includes the following (see [SDCL 32-5B-2](#) for a complete list):
 - Any motor vehicle sold or transferred that is eleven or more model years old and which is sold or transferred for \$2,500 or less before trade-in;
 - Any motor vehicle transferred as part of the sale of the assets of a LLC, corporation, or a limited or general partnership if the motor vehicle was previously titled, licensed, and registered in South Dakota;
 - Any motor vehicle repossessed by a secured party or lien holder in satisfaction of the debt;
 - Any damaged motor vehicle transferred to an insurance company in the settlement of an insurance claim;
 - Any motor vehicle rented for twenty-eight days or less that is subject to the tax imposed by [SDCL 32-5B-20](#). (See [Motor Vehicle Leases & Rentals Tax Fact](#))

South Dakota Taxes and Rates

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax – Applies to the purchase of most motor vehicles.	4%
State Sales Tax or Use Tax – Applies to all sales or purchases of taxable products and services.	4.5%
The following tax may apply in addition to the state sales tax:	
Municipal Sales Tax or Use Tax – Applies to all sales of products and services that are subject to the state sales tax or use tax if the purchaser receives or uses the product or service in a municipality that imposes a sales tax or use tax.	1 to 2%

Motor Vehicle Sales or Purchases

The following table shows the tax that applies to the purchase or sale of certain motor vehicles. Also shown is titling, license, and registration requirements for those vehicles. This is not an all-inclusive list of motor vehicles. For title, license, and registration information on a specific vehicle, please contact your County Treasurer.

For tax information on vehicles that will be leased or rented, see [Motor Vehicle Leases & Rentals Tax Fact](#).

Motor Vehicle Sales or Purchases Tax, Titling, Licensing, and Registration					
Vehicle	Sales or Use Tax	Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	Titling	License and Registration	Vehicle Description
Cars, Trucks, Vans (including new, used, or rebuilt)	No	Yes - 4%	Required	Required	Exception: Automobiles, pickups, and vans purchased to lease to others for 28 days or less are not subject to motor vehicle excise tax. See Motor Vehicle Leases & Rentals Tax Fact .
Low Speed Vehicle	No	Yes - 4%	Required	Required	A 4-wheeled motor vehicle that goes at least 20 miles per hour but not faster than 25 miles per hour. The manufacturer's statement of origin (MSO) or title must clearly identify the vehicle as a low speed vehicle. A low speed vehicle may not be operated on any highway where the speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour. (May not be a homemade vehicle or a retrofitted golf cart.)
Motorcycles	No	Yes - 4%	Required	Required	Includes motorcycles, motorbikes, mopeds (51cc or larger), bicycles with a motor attached and all motor operated vehicles of the bicycle or tricycle type or a platform on which the driver stands, excludes tractors. Exception: Motorcycles rented to others for 28 days or less are not subject to Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. See Motor Vehicle Leases & Rentals Tax Fact .
Moped (50cc or smaller)	Yes	No	Optional	Optional	A moped is a motor driven cycle equipped with two or three wheels. If a combustion engine is used, the maximum piston or rotor displacement shall be 50cc, regardless of the number of chambers in such power source. The power source shall be equipped with a power drive system that functions directly or automatically only, not requiring clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.
Off Road Vehicles	No	Yes - 4%	Required	Optional (Need to meet certain requirements to be on the road and highways.)	Any self-propelled, two or more wheel vehicle designed primarily to be operated on land other than a highway. This includes any vehicle whose manufacturer's statement of origin (MSO) or manufacturer's certificate of origin (MCO) states that the vehicle is not for highway use.
Snowmobiles	No	Yes - 3%	Required	Required	This excludes any snow vehicle which exceeds 48 inches in width. SDCL 32-20A-1(8)
Boats	Varies on Watercraft Type	Yes - 3%	Varies on Watercraft Type	Varies on Watercraft Type	See Tax Fact on Boats .

Contact your County Treasurer to pay tax, apply for title, and register your vehicle within 45 days of purchase.

If you purchased a vehicle outside of South Dakota, proof of tax paid is required upon title application and you may have an additional tax obligation. Contact your County Treasurer to see if any additional tax is due.

Dealer Fees and Purchase Options with the Sale of a Vehicle

- All optional services and products a customer may purchase are taxable unless specially exempted.
 - A dealer may purchase and install optional products that become part of the motor vehicle for resale. See the table to the right for examples.

Examples of optional services and products that are exempt from sales, use, and motor vehicle excise tax:

- Interest Charges
- Credit Life & Disability Insurance (subject to insurance premium tax)
- GAP Insurance (subject to insurance premium tax)
- Mechanical Breakdown Insurance (subject to insurance premium tax)
- **Commissions for Loans**

Commission or fees you receive for arranging a loan between the buyer of your product and a lending institution are not subject to sales tax. This includes fees received for arranging loans for a customer's purchase of a motor vehicle.

- **Delivery and Handling Fees**

The retailers' charge for delivery is subject to the same state and municipal sales tax rate as the product or service sold. If the product or service sold is not taxable, the delivery charge is not taxable. The same is true if a dealer hires a transportation company and bills the customer for the transportation service, the transportation charge is subject to the same tax as the product sold, as long as it is done at the time of purchase.

Delivery charges include any charge for transportation, shipping, postage, handling, crating, and packing.

When a shipment contains taxable and nontaxable products, sales tax is due on the portion of the delivery charge for the taxable products. This is determined by using a percentage of the sales price compared to the total sales or a percentage of the weight of the taxable products compared to the total weight of all products in the shipment.

Examples of optional products and customizing that can be purchased for resale are:

- Bed Liners
- Bug Shields
- Crystal Fusion
- Customized Paint Decals
- Electric MV Connector
- Floor Mats
- LoJack
- Mirror
- Polyshield
- Running Boards
- Seat Covers
- Starter Interrupter Devices Theft Etch
- Windshield Enhancements

Examples

1. A parts store ships a part to a customer in rural Minnehaha County for \$200 plus \$20 delivery.
 - The parts store owes 4.5% state sales tax on \$220. No municipal sales tax is due because the customer takes possession of the part outside the city limits.
2. Jones Auto sells and delivers the following items to Fred's Farm Store in Pierre: Two tires for resale for \$1000 and one tire display rack for use by Fred for \$1000. Jones bills Fred \$2000 plus \$200 delivery. Fred gave Jones an exemption certificate for the two tires.
 - Jones charges state sales tax plus Pierre municipal sales tax on \$1,100 (\$1000 for the display rack plus \$100 shipping). Taxable shipping was determined by dividing the taxable products by the total sale ($\$1000/\$2000 = 50\%$). 50% of the shipping is taxable ($\$200 \times 50\% = \100).

Dealer Fees and Purchase Options with the Sale of a Vehicle (cont.)

- **Warranties, Insurance, and Service Contracts**

- * *Manufacturer's Warranty*

Parts and labor furnished to fulfill a warranty obligation of the manufacturer are not subject to sales tax. Your receipts from the manufacturer for warranty work are not taxable. You do not owe use tax on parts taken from inventory to complete work under a manufacturer's warranty, this does not include warranty software.

Receipts from the customer or manufacturer for items not covered by the warranty are subject to sales tax.

If the manufacturer's warranty states:	Sales Tax or Use Tax Due
No cost to customer for parts	No sales tax or use tax due on the parts
Customer is responsible for a percentage of parts and labor	Sales tax due on the amount charged the customer
Customer pays a deductible for parts or labor	Sales tax due on the amount charged the customer
Customer is responsible for the repair labor	Sales tax due on the amount charged the customer
The manufacturer furnishes you the repair part at no charge	No sales tax or use tax due on the repair part
The manufacturer pays you for the repair part	No sales tax or use tax due on the repair part
The manufacturer pays you for the repair labor	No sales tax or use tax due on the repair labor

- * *Extended Service Contracts (Extended Warranty)*

Extended service contracts that cover unexpected repair costs are subject to the motor vehicle excise tax when sold at the time of the vehicle purchase.

Extended service contracts sold later are subject to sales tax. Sales tax applies where the extended service contract is delivered to the customer. If customer takes possession at the dealership, the tax rate is based on the dealer's location. If the extended warranty is mailed to the customer, the tax rate is based on the customer's mailing address.

- * *Mechanical Breakdown Insurance*

Insurance policies are not considered warranty or service contracts. Insurance premiums are not subject to sales tax; however, the premiums are subject to insurance premiums tax. All charges made to the insurance company for parts and labor are subject to sales tax.

If you do not know if a service contract is insurance or not, you may contact the South Dakota Department of Labor, Insurance Division and ask if the company that sells the contract is a licensed insurance company, or call the Department of Revenue at 1-800-829-9188.

- * *Implied Warranty*

If you do not charge for repairs made to a customer's motor vehicle after the sale and those repairs are not covered by a written warranty, you owe use tax on the cost of all parts installed in the customer's vehicle. You do not owe use tax on your employee's labor.

Unconventional Motor Vehicles

The following items are subject to sales tax or use tax. You may pull these items on a road; however, they are not subject to motor vehicle excise tax and may not be titled. This is not an all-inclusive list.

- Axles
- Car Dollies
- Jeep Boosters
- Log Splitters, Tree Chippers, Stump Grinders
- Small Pull-Type Cement Mixers
- Street Sweepers
- Tar Pits
- Welders

Mounted Equipment

A dealer may add mounted equipment to a vehicle prior to a sale or include the equipment with the sale but add the equipment later. Sometimes a customer may buy the mounted equipment from a separate dealer. The tax that applies depends on when the customer buys the equipment.

- Mounted equipment sold with the vehicle or included in the sale price of the vehicle is subject to the motor vehicle excise tax and is not subject to sales tax. The dealer may install the equipment before or after the sale. This applies to new or used motor vehicles and new or used mounted equipment.
- Mounted equipment sold separately from the vehicle and added after the sale of the motor vehicle, is subject to sales tax or use tax. Sales tax or use tax also applies to installation charges.

Examples

1. Smith buys a truck chassis for \$12,000. Smith then buys a cement mixer and has it mounted on the truck.
 - The \$12,000 is subject to motor vehicle excise tax.
 - The mixer and installation charges are subject to sales tax.
2. James buys a truck chassis for \$12,000 and a cement mixer for \$8,000 from a dealer. Both are listed on the motor vehicle purchase agreement. The Dealer installs the cement mixer on the truck. James pays \$20,000.
 - The truck and cement mixer are subject to the motor vehicle excise tax.

Examples of mounted equipment are truck boxes, hoists, digger equipment, and cherry pickers.

* Mounted medical equipment is not subject to motor vehicle excise tax when the applicant shows proof of prescription.

Sourcing—Which State or Municipal Tax Applies?

Example

1. Smith buys a 50cc moped from a dealer in Sioux Falls and has it delivered to Mitchell. Smith provides the dealer with the delivery information.
 - The dealer should collect and remit 4.5% state sales tax and 2% Mitchell municipal sales tax because the dealer delivered the moped to Mitchell.

Sales tax applies where the customer receives the product or service. Receive means where the customer takes possession of the product.

Products purchased, repaired, or serviced that are picked up at the seller's shop are taxed at the shop's location.

Products the seller delivers, with their vehicle or by a delivery company, are taxed at the delivery address.

When a shipping company is hired, sales tax is owed based on the delivery address. The shipping company should give the seller documentation showing the delivery address.

Products or services delivered to locations outside South Dakota are not subject to South Dakota sales tax. The seller must keep documentation of the address used to determine tax.

Driving Services

Fees charged for driving a motor vehicle from one location to another are subject to sales tax or use tax. Sales tax applies based on the location to which the vehicle is driven.

For example, if a person drives a car from Highmore to Pierre for hire, the state and municipal (Pierre) sales tax or use tax is due.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact the **South Dakota Department of Revenue.**

Call toll-free: 1-800-829-9188

Business Tax Division Email: bustax@state.sd.us

Motor Vehicle Division Email: motorv@state.sd.us

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