



<https://dor.sd.gov/> 1-800-829-9188

# Dentists

*The purpose of this Tax Fact is to explain to dentists and those associated with dental laboratories, clinics, and related businesses which items are sales taxable and which are not. 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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## Medical Services

Health services provided by offices and clinics of dentists are exempt from state and municipal sales and use tax. Included in this exemption are services performed by: Dental surgeons; Dentists; Endodontists; Oral pathologists; Orthodontists; Periodontists; Prosthodontists; Dental hygienists; and Dental X-ray laboratories.

Health services provided by Dental Laboratories are exempt from state and municipal sales and use tax. Dental laboratories are establishments primarily engaged in making dentures, artificial teeth, and orthodontic appliances to order for the dental profession.

### South Dakota Taxes and Rates

<b>State Sales Tax and Use Tax</b> – Applies to all sales or purchases of taxable products and services.	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Municipal Sales Tax and Use Tax</b> – 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.	<b>1 to 2%</b>

## License Requirement

Dentists and other health service providers must have a South Dakota sales and use tax license.

Sales tax should be collected from customers on all sales of non-prescription items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, and over-the-counter whitening kits.

## Exempt Products

Drugs, medical devices, prosthetic devices, durable medical equipment, and mobility enhancing equipment are exempt from the sales and use tax when prescribed, dispensed or administered by a licensed dentist for use on a single patient.

Sale of products, including tangible personal property, products transferred electronically and services to dentists, dental clinics, dental hygienists, for-profit hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, surgical centers, and healthcare staff are subject to sales tax unless the product is exempt because it will be prescribed or resold. Sales of products to nonprofit hospitals are exempt from sales tax.

A **prescription** means an order, formula or recipe issued in any form of oral, written, electronic, or other means of transmission by a duly licensed practitioner.

### Drugs

The sale of drugs for use by humans is not subject to sales or use tax if the drugs are prescribed, dispensed or administered by a physician, chiropractor, optometrist, dentist, podiatrist, or audiologist.

Drugs mean any compound, substance or preparation, and any component of a compound, substance or preparation, other than "food and food ingredients," "dietary supplements" or "alcoholic beverages" that is:

- Recognized in the official United States Pharmacopoeia, official Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, or official National Formulary, and supplement to any of them; or
- Intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease; or
- Intended to affect the structure or any function of the body.

### Examples of drugs that are exempt when prescribed, dispensed, or administered by a Dentist are:

- Antibiotics, anesthetics, and other analgesics
- CO2 and tank rental
- Disclosant tablets
- Liquid nitrogen
- Nitrous oxide and tank rental
- Oxygen and tank rental
- Prescription drugs
- Prescription fluoride
- Prophy paste
- Toothpaste - Must contain sodium fluoride or other substance requiring labeling as a drug.
- Whitening gels

## Exempt Products (cont.)

### Drug Samples

Samples of drugs given to a physician, chiropractor, optometrist, dentist, podiatrist, audiologist, clinic, or hospital are exempt from sales tax because these drugs must be prescribed, dispensed, or administered by a physician, chiropractor,

### Prosthetic Devices

Prosthetic devices used by humans are exempt from sales tax when prescribed by a physician, chiropractor, optometrist, dentist, podiatrist, or audiologist.

Prosthetic device means a replacement, corrective, or supportive device worn on or in the body to:

- Artificially replace a missing portion of the body;
- Prevent or correct physical deformity or malfunction; or
- Support a weak or deformed portion of the body.

Prosthetic devices include the repair and replacement parts for the devices.

### Medical Device

The sale of any medical device is exempt from sales tax when the medical device is prescribed by a dentist for use on a single patient.

A medical device is any instrument, apparatus, implement, contrivance, or other similar or related article, including a component, part, or accessory, that is prescribed for use on a single patient and that is:

- Recognized in the official National Formulary, or the United States Pharmacopoeia, or any supplement to them;
- Intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions, or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, detection, or prevention of disease, of the human body; or
- Intended to affect the structure or any function of the human body, and that does not achieve any of its primary intended purposes through chemical action within or on the human body and that is not dependent of its primary intended purposes. A medical device is not durable medical equipment, mobility enhancing equipment, or a prosthetic device.

Medical devices that are usable on multiple patients or that are used for purposes other than on a single patient are subject to the state sales tax, plus applicable municipal tax.

Repairs and replacement parts for medical devices sold under a prescription are exempt from sales and use tax. If there is not a prescription for the original item sold or for the repairs or replacement parts, the repairs or replacement parts will be subject to state sales tax, plus applicable municipal tax.

**A toothbrush is a personal hygiene item, not a medical device, and is subject to sales or use tax.**

### Examples of prosthetic devices are:

- Bonding agents
- Crowns
- Crown cement
- Crown forms
- Dental implants including prosthetic components
- Endodontic filling materials
- Filling materials such as gold, silver, amalgam, composite, cement adhesives, and luting cements
- Endodontic posts
- Orthodontic braces and appliances
- Partial dentures, bridges and dentures
- Temporary crowns
- Regenerative materials (graft materials, membranes)

### Examples of medical devices that are exempt when they are prescribed and can only be used on a single patient:

- Alcohol wipes, pads, and swipes
- Cotton swabs, rolls, and sponges
- Burs
- Curettes
- Drapes, sheets, towels
- Dressings
- Elastics
- Endodontic files and reamers
- Finish strips
- Fluoride trays
- Gauze
- Impression trays and materials
- Matrix bands
- Napkins—bibs
- Quick tips
- Retention pins
- Rubber dams
- Saliva ejectors
- Surgical instruments— (examples are):
  - ⇒ knife blades
  - ⇒ saw blades
  - ⇒ staple guns
- Syringes and needles
- X-Ray film

Note: Any of these items that can be used on multiple patients are taxable.

## Exempt Products (cont.)

### Taxable Medical Devices, Supplies and Equipment

Medical devices, supplies, and equipment used by dentists, dental laboratories, and dental hygienists that are not prescribed for use on a single patient are subject to the state sales tax, plus applicable municipal tax when purchased.

Gloves, gowns, and other protective gear worn by healthcare staff are subject to sales tax. Some medical devices purchased in bulk may be used by staff or prescribed for use on a single patient. If documentation is kept to identify the items pre-scribed for use on a single patient then those items are exempt from sales or use tax. Items used by staff are subject to sales or use tax.

Dentists who purchase equipment, services and other items from unlicensed suppliers without paying sales tax are subject to the use tax on the cost of the item or service. All products and services purchased are subject to sales tax at the time of purchase, unless purchased to resell, or are exempt items. You must pay use tax directly to the state if the supplier did not charge the applicable sales tax. Products removed from inventory to use in your business are also subject to use tax if sales or use tax was not previously paid.

**Examples of taxable durable medical equipment (not prescribed for use on a single patient) are:**

- Tools
- Burs (not prescribed for a single patient)
- Endodontic files and reamers
- Forceps
- Instruments
- Lab equipment
- Matrix bands
- Scissors
- Syringes

**Examples of taxable equipment and supplies are:**

- Balloons
- Candy
- Clear dip
- Computer hardware and software (both canned and custom)
- Personal hygiene items given to patients such as toothbrushes, dental floss and lip balm.
- Magazine subscriptions
- Masks, rubber gloves, and other protective gear used by healthcare staff
- Office furniture
- Office supplies
- Operatory equipment
- Paper products
- Prescription blanks
- Samples of non-prescription items
- Sterilization products (pouches)
- Trays and tray covers
- Uniforms and scrubs

**Examples of taxable services are:**

- Accountant
- Attorney
- Business consulting
- Computer
- Internet access fees
- Snow removal
- Grounds keeper
- Janitorial services
- Dental software support services

**Examples of taxable items:**

- Air cleaners and compressors
- Blasters
- Cameras
- Chisels
- Curing units
- Dust collectors
- Microscopes
- Mixers
- Polishers
- Scales
- Software
- Steam units
- Pressure vessels
- Vacuums
- Welders

## Dental Laboratories

Laboratories and dentists that fabricate dentures or items for their patients may purchase the materials that become part of the product exempt from sales tax. Materials that do not become part of the finished product are subject to sales or use tax. Impression trays and impression material used on a single patient are exempt from tax. Office equipment and supplies, laboratory processing equipment, and tools used at the laboratory are subject to sales or use tax.

## Use Tax

All products and services purchased are subject to sales tax at the time of purchase unless purchased to resell or the product is an exempt item. You must pay use tax directly to the state if the supplier did not charge the applicable sales tax. The use tax rate is due plus applicable municipal use tax and is payable to the department in the reporting period you receive the invoice for the product or service.

## Use Tax (cont.)

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Products delivered into South Dakota by the supplier is subject to the South Dakota sales or use tax even if the supplier charges another state's sales tax. When a purchase is made out-of-state and possession is taken out-of-state the supplier may charge that state's sales tax. If the other state's sales tax is the same or more than South Dakota's tax, no South Dakota use tax is due. If it is less than South Dakota's, the difference is due in use tax. The state plus applicable municipal taxes must be added together to determine if additional tax is owed.

## Municipal Tax

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Many municipalities in South Dakota have a sales and use tax in addition to the state sales tax. If the customer receives a product or service in one of these municipalities, the product or service is subject to that municipality's sales tax. A list of municipal tax rates is available on our website at <https://dor.sd.gov> or by calling 1-800-829-9188.

In an effort to ease the burden retailers may encounter trying to identify which South Dakota addresses are inside a city with a sales tax, the department created a Geographic Information System (GIS) called [TaxMatch](#) that is easily accessible by computer over the Internet.

It can help users quickly find the correct tax rate and city tax codes for locations throughout South Dakota. Users enter any South Dakota address into the Tax Match system; the system then provides all the applicable tax codes and rates for that address.

For quick and easy access, click on the One Services button on the department's website at <https://dor.sd.gov>.

### Exempt Entities

Accredited schools, non-profit hospitals, approved relief agencies, and government entities are exempt from sales and use tax. The seller must keep copies of payment documents received from the exempt purchaser in their records. Accredited schools and relief agencies have license numbers assigned by the department that should be provided to the seller.

## Required Records

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Records, such as purchase and sales invoices, bills of lading, books of all receipts and sales, cash register receipts, and other pertinent papers and documents are required to be kept for at least three years and be available for inspection during business hours.

Businesses must keep adequate documentation to support that products are delivered outside city limits. Examples of documentation that shows delivery of products include: truck driver log books; directions to delivery point; contract carrier bills of lading; and shipping invoices.

Other Tax Facts you may wish to request: [Audits](#), [Health Services](#), [Drugs](#), [Medical Devices](#), and [Use Tax](#).

### Contact Us

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

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

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