



VEHICLE REGISTRATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina requires current registration and licensing of every motor vehicle driven, operated, or moved on its roads and highways. In order to register a vehicle, the owner of the vehicle must provide (either by mail or in person) the vehicle's title, proof of insurance, vehicle property tax receipt and payment for the registration fees to the South Carolina DMV.

PERMANENTLY MOVING TO SOUTH CAROLINA

If you move to South Carolina you must first get a South Carolina driver's license and transfer your vehicle's title and registration. Once your title is cleared through the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System, your new South Carolina title will be mailed to your new South Carolina address.

You have 45 days to apply for a South Carolina vehicle registration certificate after moving to the state. Your registration will be good for 2 years.

*If you are titling/ registering your vehicle in South Carolina for the first time then you must follow the following steps:

1. *Update your vehicle insurance company with your new SC address. The company **must be** licensed to do business in SC.*
2. *Contact your county of residence auditor's office and share the VIN of the vehicle you're registering in SC. You will visit the auditor's office, and he or she will generate a property tax bill for the vehicle. You **must** pay the property tax bill to the county treasurer before you can register your vehicle in this state. You must bring the **original** paid property tax receipt to the SCDMV.*
3. *Visit the SCDMV with **all** of the following:*
 - *Completed [Title Application \(SCDMV Form 400\)](#)*
 - *Out-of-state vehicle title and/or registration*
*If there is a lien on your vehicle, you must bring the name and address of the company that holds the lien. You will need your **most recent** registration.*
 - *Acceptable identification*
Includes your valid SC or out-of-state beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card, a valid passport with visa, Employment Authorization Document, or a permanent residency card.
 - *Liability insurance company information*
 - *Power of Attorney*
*A Power of Attorney is needed if you're leasing your vehicle **and** if the Title Application (SCDMV Form 400) is signed by the lessee (registrant) on behalf of the lessor (title holder).*
 - ***Original** paid vehicle property tax receipt from your county treasurer's office*
 - *\$250 [Infrastructure Maintenance Fee \(IMF\)](#)*
 - *[Title and registration payment](#)*

* <http://www.scdmvonline.com/Vehicle-Owners/Moving-To-SC>

Once you have the receipts, you're ready to register and title your vehicle, which can be accomplished simultaneously.

The SCDMV gives you two ways to register:

- In person.
- By mail.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS DURING ACTIVE DUTY

If you own a vehicle and you're on active duty military orders in South Carolina, you must have the Statement of Vehicle Operation in South Carolina (SCDMV Form TI-006) with your valid out-of-state identification and **at least one** of the following:

- Military identification card
- Orders indicating duties in SC
- Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) showing deployment in SC

VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES*

South Carolina vehicle title and registration fees are as follows:

- Passenger vehicles: \$305 per vehicle ((vehicles with a higher gross vehicle weight may have a higher fee) to the SCDMV upon entering the state. This includes the \$250 IMF, \$15 title fee, and \$40 registration/license plate fee but **does not** include the property tax you will pay to your county of residence.) <http://www.scdmvonline.com/Vehicle-Owners/Moving-To-SC>
- Hybrids (Road use fee): \$60 + registration fee.
- Vehicle owners 64 years old: \$38.
- Vehicle owners 65 years old and older or disabled: \$36.
- Motorcycles: \$10.
- RVs: \$40.
- License plate transfer: \$10.
- Infrastructure Maintenance Fee: 5% of purchase price (\$500 maximum). This is a one-time fee, paid when registering your vehicle for the first time. (You will pay the IMF once per vehicle, but you will not have to pay it again. You will pay the registration/plate fee every two years.)
<http://www.scdmvonline.com/Vehicle-Owners/Moving-To-SC>; <http://www.scdmvonline.com/Fees>

USEFUL NUMBERS/ WEB-ADDRESSES

Sumter Branch DMV office: 803-775-8559.

Sumter County Auditor: 803-436-2136.

South Carolina DMV: <http://www.scdmvonline.com/>

DMV: <https://www.dmv.org/>

DISCLAIMER: THIS HANDOUT PROVIDES A GENERAL EXPLANATION OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION. DO NOT RELY EXCLUSIVELY ON THIS HANDOUT. IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR SEEK ADVICE REGARDING THIS SUBJECT PLEASE:

CONTACT THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE, OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR, AT 1-800-868-2284 (IN SUMTER: 803-799-6653) FOR A REFERRAL TO A LAWYER WHO PRACTICES IN THIS AREA OF LAW. IF YOU ARE INDIGENT AND UNABLE TO PAY FOR A LAWYER'S SERVICE, YOU MAY WANT TO CONTACT THE LEGAL AID TELEPHONE INTAKE SERVICE AT 1-888-346-5592 TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED LEGAL SERVICES.