

REGISTRATION & TITLING REQUIREMENTS

YOU MUST REGISTER AND TITLE YOUR VEHICLE IN TEXAS IF:

- you establish residency; or
- you become gainfully employed.

Your vehicle may be operated with current out-of-state license plates for 30 days. Immediate registration is required at the end of the 30-day period.

YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER AND TITLE YOUR VEHICLE IN TEXAS IF:

- you are a nonresident member of the United States Armed Forces; or
- you are a nonresident student attending an accredited Texas college or university on a full-time basis. Part-time employment is allowed.

Your vehicle must display valid license plates and remain currently registered at all times.

SAFETY & VIN INSPECTION REQUIRED

Before registering your vehicle in Texas, the vehicle must pass a safety inspection and a vehicle identification number inspection. The inspection must be performed by a state-certified inspection station (see "Annual Vehicle Safety Inspection" section of this brochure).

- A Vehicle Identification Certificate certifying the correct vehicle identification number will be completed by the inspection station. Members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents will also have to meet this requirement on the Vehicle Identification Certificate.
- The Vehicle Identification Certificate must be submitted to your local County Tax Assessor-Collector along with other required documentation (see "Application for Title & Registration" section of this brochure).
- Vehicles registered in affected counties are also subject to emissions testing. The emissions test is performed at the time of safety inspection (see "Annual Vehicle Emissions Testing" section of this brochure).

REGISTRATION FEES

- Passenger vehicles: determined by the manufacturer's model year of the vehicle. The fees range from \$40 to \$60.
- Trucks: determined by the gross weight of the vehicle (gross weight = empty weight + manufacturer's rated carrying capacity).

TITLE APPLICATION FEE

The application fee for a Texas certificate of title is \$33 if you are a resident of a county designated as an emissions affected county, and \$28 for all other counties.

LOCAL FEES

Most Texas counties charge local fees, ranging from \$5 to \$11.50, in addition to the title and registration fees. Contact your County Tax Assessor-Collector for information about these fees.

AUTOMATED SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT FEE

State law requires counties with 50,000 or more vehicles to collect a \$1 system enhancement fee. Contact your County Tax Assessor-Collector to determine if this fee is applicable in your county.

NEW RESIDENT TAX

A New Resident Tax of \$90 is due when filing an application for Texas certificate of title on a vehicle that was previously registered or leased by you outside of Texas. Sales tax or emissions surcharges may be due in certain situations.

APPLICATION FOR TITLE & REGISTRATION

Your application for Texas certificate of title and vehicle registration must be filed with the County Tax Assessor-Collector in the county in which you reside. Texas does not issue a non-negotiable certificate of title to applicants for Registration Purposes Only. The Receipt issued will serve as the owner's proof of registration and as evidence of title.

The following items must be submitted:

- completed Application for Texas Certificate of Title, Form 130-U;
- out-of-state title or foreign ownership document;
- out-of-state Vehicle Identification Certificate;
- valid proof of financial responsibility;
- the vehicle's current odometer reading, if the vehicle is less than 10 model years old;
- if a foreign ownership document, a completed Form VTR-68-A and proof (Form HS-7, bond release letter, etc.) must be provided that the vehicle conforms to U.S. Department of Transportation safety standards; and
- if the vehicle has not been previously registered by you in another state, sales or use tax verification is required.

REGISTRATION INSIGNIA

Vehicle registration in Texas is validated through issuance of a windshield validation sticker in most cases. The sticker must be affixed to the lower driver's side corner of the windshield, within six inches of the safety inspection sticker.

TITLE & REGISTRATION FORMS

Title and registration forms may be obtained:

- at your County Tax Assessor-Collector's office;
- by accessing TxDOT's web site (<http://www.dot.state.tx.us>); or
- by calling TxDOT's FAX reply number (Toll-free 1-888-232-7033).

INSURANCE

You cannot legally operate a motor vehicle in Texas without liability insurance coverage. You must present valid proof of liability insurance coverage to receive or renew your:

- motor vehicle registration;
- driver's license; and
- vehicle safety inspection.

Acceptable evidence of liability insurance coverage may be an original or photocopy of one of the following:

- a liability insurance card;
- an insurance policy;
- an insurance binder; or
- a certificate of self-insurance.

The minimum amounts of coverage prescribed by law are as follows:

- **\$20,000** bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident;
- **\$40,000** bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, subject to a \$20,000 limit for one person; and
- **\$15,000** because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident.

To be valid, an insurance policy must be written for a period of 30 days or more.

"No fault" insurance is not acceptable as proof of financial responsibility in Texas. However, proof of financial responsibility from out-of-state or out-of-country is acceptable provided the insurance coverage is at least the minimum amounts described above.

ANNUAL VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION

Every car, truck, bus, motorcycle, moped, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer registered in Texas and operated on a public roadway must display a valid vehicle inspection certificate at all times. However, trailer-type vehicles with a gross weight of 4,500 pounds or less are exempt.

Vehicle inspections are conducted at state-certified inspection stations. Many garages, repair facilities, and full-service stations are certified to perform the inspections.

Defects disclosed during a safety inspection may be corrected by the vehicle owner or by a repair facility of the owner's choice. When a motor vehicle passes the inspection, an inspection certificate displaying the month and year of expiration will be affixed to the windshield. The inspection certificate expires 12 months from the date of the inspection.

Your vehicle will be inspected for the following:

- brakes
- lighting equipment
- horns, other warning devices
- mirrors
- windshield wipers
- front seat belts
- steering system
- wheel assembly and tires
- safety guards
- exhaust system
- exhaust emission system (visual)

For more information about the annual vehicle safety inspection, contact the Texas Department of Public Safety at 512/424-2000.

ANNUAL VEHICLE EMISSIONS TESTING

The "Texas Motorist's Choice Program" is Texas' vehicle emissions testing program. It is currently applicable only in affected counties, and applies only to gasoline-powered vehicles, 2 through 24 years old, registered or inspected in these counties.

Most well-maintained vehicles pass the emissions test. However, if your vehicle fails the test, be sure to pick up the "Has your vehicle failed the Emissions Test?" and "Recognized Emissions Repair Facilities of Texas" brochures at any certified inspection station or your local Texas Department of Public Safety Office. You may qualify for a waiver or time extension.

For more information about vehicle emissions testing, contact the Texas Department of Public Safety at 512/424-2000 or at www.txdps.state.tx.us.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you are a driver establishing residence in Texas, you are required to obtain a Texas driver's license within 30 days. You may apply for a driver's license at any Texas Department of Public Safety Driver's License Office. The following will be required:

- proof that your vehicle has been registered in Texas;
- valid proof of liability insurance;
- a certified copy of your birth certificate or other qualified evidence which documents the date of your birth; and
- thumb prints will be taken.

You must also pass an examination for vision, rules, signs, and driving skills. To prepare for the examination, a driver handbook containing all of the necessary information is available at any Texas Department of Public Safety Office.

Proof of Driver Education completion and parental authorization is required for minors ages 15 through 17.

AVOID A TICKET AND A FINE!

TEXAS LAW REQUIRES...

- ✓ Two license plates, one at the front and one at the rear, must be displayed on all passenger cars or light commercial vehicles operated on public highways. In most cases, the license plates will be validated with a windshield validation sticker. If your Texas license plates or windshield validation sticker become lost, stolen, or mutilated, replacements may be obtained for the statutory fee of \$5.30 by contacting any County Tax Assessor-Collector.
- ✓ A copy of the registration receipt issued for a commercial motor vehicle, truck-tractor, trailer, or semitrailer must be carried in the vehicle when it is on a public highway. The receipt must be presented to a law enforcement officer upon request. "Commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, designed or used primarily to transport property.
- ✓ Safety belt use is mandatory for all front seat occupants and all children between the ages of 4 and 15.
- ✓ The use of safety restraints is mandatory for all children under the age of 4.
- ✓ All speed limits and traffic warning signs must be observed while operating a motor vehicle.
- ✓ Valid proof of liability insurance must be carried in your vehicle at all times.
- ✓ The operator of a motor vehicle must carry a current, valid driver's license at all times.
- ✓ All motor vehicles must display a valid safety inspection sticker on the lower driver's side corner of the windshield.
- ✓ If you have a non-injury accident, do not wait for the police before moving the vehicles involved. You may contribute to traffic back-ups which can cause other accidents. If the vehicles can be driven, move them to a safe location and then exchange insurance information or contact the police.

And remember...

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION DIVISION REGIONAL OFFICES

ABILENE (325) 734-5120	4250 N. Clack Abilene, Texas 79601-1141
AMARILLO (806) 467-8902	5715 I-27 S., Building H Amarillo, Texas 79110
AUSTIN (512) 837-4416	1001 E. Parmer Lane, Suite A Austin, Texas 78753
BEAUMONT (409) 842-5875	4245 Cardinal Drive Beaumont, Texas 77705-4407
CORPUS CHRISTI (361) 808-2600	1701 South Padre Island Drive Corpus Christi, Texas 78416
DALLAS- CARROLLTON (972) 417-0884	1925 E. Beltline Rd., Suite 100 Carrollton, Texas 75006
EL PASO (915) 591-8149	1227 Lee Trevino, Suite 100 El Paso, Texas 79907
FORT WORTH- ARLINGTON (817) 649-5938	910 N. Watson Road Arlington, Texas 76011-5260
HOUSTON (713) 681-6637	10000 Northwest Frwy., Ste. 105 Houston, Texas 77092
LONGVIEW (903) 753-6279	1301 Karnes Road Longview, Texas 75604
LUBBOCK (806) 745-8888	135 Slaton Road Lubbock, Texas 79404
MIDLAND- ODESSA (432) 498-4674	3901 East Hwy 80 Odessa, Texas 79761
PHARR (956) 781-3291	600 West Expressway 83 Pharr, Texas 78577
SAN ANGELO (325) 947-9330	4502 Knickerbocker Road San Angelo, Texas 76904
SAN ANTONIO (210) 615-1776	4611 N.W. Loop 410 San Antonio, Texas 78229-5126
WACO (254) 752-1152	2203 Austin Avenue Waco, Texas 76701-1624
WICHITA FALLS (940) 720-7754	1601-A Southwest Parkway Wichita Falls, Texas 76302-4906

SPECIAL NOTE...

Address changes should be reported to TxDOT or your local County Tax Assessor-Collector immediately. This will ensure the delivery of your Registration Renewal Notice. Address changes can be done on-line at: www.texasonline.com.

INSURANCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM

As a result of the passage of HB 3588, 78th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, effective September 2003, applicable vehicle owners required to show proof of financial responsibility under §502.153, Transportation Code, are required to pay an additional \$1 insurance fee at the time of application for registration or renewal of registration.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Insurance (DOI) will jointly complete a study on the feasibility, affordability and practicability of creating an insurance database system to verify that motor vehicle owners have established financial responsibility. The DPS and DOI will jointly issue an order before July 1, 2004, stating a determination of whether the system should be implemented.

If the study determines an insurance database is feasible, revenue from the \$1 insurance fee may be used by the DPS, the DOI and TxDOT to jointly implement the insurance verification database program before January 1, 2005. In addition, prior to August 31, 2005, the DPS may use the monies collected to reengineer the Texas driver license system and to establish a system to support the driver responsibility program

SPECIALTY PLATES

TxDOT makes available several license plate designs for a small fee in addition to your regular registration fee. Applications to purchase these plates are available at your local County Tax Assessor-Collector's office and on the TxDOT web site.

PRIVACY INFORMATION

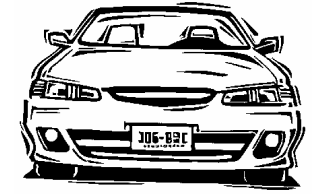
With a few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information TxDOT collects about you. Texas Government Code, §§552.021 and 559.004 further entitle you to receive and review the information on request, and to request that the department correct any information about you that is deemed incorrect. Please contact the TxDOT Vehicle Titles and Registration Division, Customer Help Desk at 512/465-7611 for further details.

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us>

The Texas Department of Transportation is accessible via the Internet and has detailed information about our agency. Click on the "Automobiles" link to find specific information about motor vehicle registration and titling.

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VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS



FOR NEW RESIDENTS

- LICENSE PLATES
- TITLES
- INSURANCE
- VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION
- VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION
- DRIVER'S LICENSE



**VEHICLE TITLES AND
REGISTRATION DIVISION
512/465-7611
TDD 512/302-2110**

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us>