Tax Information for New Residents

GT-800025
R. 08/25

General Information About Common Tax Obligations in Florida

You are considered a Florida resident …

when your true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment is in Florida. Filing a declaration of domicile, qualifying for homestead exemption, or registering to vote in Florida can establish residency. Other actions, such as obtaining a Florida driver's license, only indicate an intent to establish residency.

Buying Goods in or for Use in Florida

Sales Tax

Retail sales of most goods in Florida are subject to a 6% state sales tax, plus any applicable discretionary sales surtax (local option sales tax) at the rate imposed by the county in which the sale occurs. Businesses generally collect both taxes from customers unless a specific exemption applies.

Florida provides various exemptions from sales tax. For example, sales of general grocery items, common household remedies, and certain baby and toddler products are exempt.

Use Tax

Use tax is the counterpart to sales tax and applies when sales tax is not collected on items used or consumed in Florida. In these cases, the purchaser is responsible for paying use tax directly to the Florida Department of Revenue.

Use tax is commonly due when goods are purchased online from an out-of-state business that is not registered to collect Florida sales tax. Many out-of-state online businesses *are* registered in Florida and collect the tax, but if they do not, the purchaser must pay use tax.

Use tax may also be due when goods purchased outside of Florida are brought into the state for use or consumption. Use tax does not apply if the goods were used in another U.S. state, territory, or the District of Columbia for six months or longer before being brought into Florida. In such cases, it is presumed that the goods were not purchased for use in Florida.

Florida recognizes sales tax paid to another U.S. jurisdiction. If the out-of-state dealer charged sales tax of 6% or more, no use tax is due in Florida. If the dealer charged less than 6%, the purchaser must pay the difference in Florida. For example, if the dealer charged 4%, the purchaser owes an additional 2% to Florida. If the use tax due is less than $1, you do not have to file or pay.

If you are not registered for sales tax purposes, you can report use tax using the Department's *Out-of-State Purchase Return* (Form DR-15MO). You may file and pay **online** or download and print the form at **floridarevenue.com/forms**.

Do You Own Real Property?

Ad Valorem (Property) Tax

If you own property in Florida, the county property appraiser assesses it annually. This assessment determines the amount of ad valorem (property) tax owed each year. Property taxes are collected annually by the county tax collector.

If the property is your primary residence, you may qualify for a homestead exemption of up to $50,000 from the assessed value. This exemption also limits how much your assessment can increase each year.

Other exemptions may be available for certain residents, including widows and widowers, blind individuals, totally and permanently disabled persons, senior citizens, and veterans. For more information, contact your county property appraiser's office.

Will You Buy a Home or Business Property, Apply for a Mortgage or Loan, or Purchase Bonds?

Documentary stamp tax is levied on documents that transfer an interest in Florida real property, such as warranty deeds and quit claim deeds.

Notes, bonds, and other written obligations to pay money executed or delivered in Florida – and mortgages and liens filed or recorded in the state – are subject to documentary stamp tax and, when secured by a mortgage or lien, a nonrecurring intangible tax.

These taxes are paid to the clerk of court if the document is recorded, or directly to the Department of Revenue if it is not recorded.

Motor Vehicle Registration and Taxes

Florida's 6% use tax applies to motor vehicles brought into the state within six months of purchase. If you live in a county that imposes a discretionary sales surtax, that tax also applies.

If you paid a similar tax of 6% or more to another U.S. state or territory, no use tax is due in Florida. If the tax paid was less than 6%, you must pay the difference.

Vehicles used in another U.S. state or territory for six months or longer before entering Florida are presumed not to have been purchased for use in Florida. To qualify for the exemption, you must provide documentation verifying the six-month use period.

If you import a vehicle from a foreign country, the full amount of use tax (6%) and applicable discretionary sales surtax are due – even if the vehicle was used abroad for six months or more. Florida does not recognize tax paid to another country when determining tax liability. The tax is paid on the vehicle's value at the time it is brought into Florida, not the original purchase price.

For information on registration costs, regulations, driver licenses, and insurance requirements, contact the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Visit its website at **flhsmv.gov** or call 850-617-2000.

Motor vehicle registrations and license tag purchases are handled through your local county tax collector's office.

Other Taxes and Fees

Florida does not impose personal income tax, inheritance tax, gift taxes, or tax on intangible personal property. However, Florida residents may be required to pay other taxes and fees, including:

- Communications services tax
- Fuel taxes
- Lead-acid battery fee
- Local option transient rental taxes
- Motor vehicle fee (Lemon Law)
- New tire fee
- Rental car surcharge

Considering Business Opportunities in Florida?

Most businesses are subject to sales and use tax, discretionary sales surtax, reemployment tax, and corporate income tax. If your business is required to collect sales tax, you must register as a sales and use tax dealer **before you begin conducting business in Florida**.

Register online at **floridarevenue.com/taxes/registration**, where an application interview will help determine your tax obligations. Or, if you prefer, print out and complete a paper *Florida Business Tax Application* (Form DR-1), available at **floridarevenue.com/forms**.

Reference Materials

Brochures – Download these brochures at **floridarevenue.com/forms:**

- *Considering Business Opportunities in Florida?* (GT-800029)
- *Florida Sales and Use Tax* (GT-800013)
- *Discretionary Sales Surtax* (GT-800019)
- *Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights* (GT-800039)
- *Solid Waste Fees and Surcharges* (GT-800037)

Forms and publications are available at **floridarevenue.com/forms**.

Information and tutorials are available at **floridarevenue.com/taxes/education**.

To speak with a Department of Revenue representative, call Taxpayer Services at (850) 488-6800, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. For a written reply to tax questions, email Taxpayer Services at **fdortaxpayerservices@floridarevenue.com**.

To find a **taxpayer service center** near you, visit **floridarevenue.com/taxes/servicecenters**.

Subscribe to Receive Updates by Email from the Department. Subscribe to receive an email for filing due date reminders, Tax Information Publications (TIPs), or proposed rules, notices of rule development workshops, and more. Subscribe today at **floridarevenue.com/dor/subscribe.**