

Stearns County 0.25 Percent Transit Sales And Use Tax

Starting January 1, 2018, Stearns County will have a 0.25 percent transit sales and use tax. The Minnesota Department of Revenue will administer this tax. Revenues will fund the projects identified in the Stearns County Five Year Construction Plan in Resolution No. 17-25.

This 0.25 percent transit sales tax applies to retail sales made within Stearns County. The transit use tax applies to taxable items used in the County if the local sales tax was not paid.

For more information about local taxes, see Fact Sheet 164, Local Sales and Use Taxes. It is available on our website, www.revenue.state.mn.us.

Who must register

All retailers who are doing business in Stearns County and are registered for Minnesota sales tax. This includes sellers outside Stearns County if they do any of the following:

- Have an office, distribution, sales, sample or warehouse locations, or other place of business in Stearns County, either directly or by a subsidiary.
- Have a representative, agent, salesperson, canvasser, or solicitor in Stearns County, either on a permanent or temporary basis.

This includes anyone, who operates under the authority of the retailer or its subsidiary for any purpose. Examples include repairing, selling, installing, or soliciting orders for the retailer's taxable goods or services, or leasing tangible personal property in Stearns County.

- Ship or deliver tangible personal property into Stearns County.
- Perform taxable services in Stearns County.

Registering for the tax

If you file Sales and Use Tax returns online, you can register for this tax either before or when you file your January 2018 return.

To register before you file:

1. Log in to e-Services and access your Sales and Use Tax account.
2. Click the "Account Information" tab.
3. To edit locations, click "Sales Locations" under "Additional Information".
4. In the "Existing Locations" list, click the "Location Code" number for the location you wish to edit.

5. Click "Edit Location" at the bottom of the page. If the General Information and the NAICS code are correct, click the "Next" button to proceed to the next screen.
6. If the address information is correct, click the "Next" button to proceed to the next screen. Click "Next" again to proceed to the list of local sales taxes.
7. Click the check box for "Stearns County transit sales" and "Stearns County transit use" Click "Next."
8. Review the page to verify that the new local tax is listed under Local sales and Other Taxes – "Stearns County transit sales" and "Stearns County transit use." Then click "Submit."
9. Review the "Confirmation Summary," Print, and Close.

To register when you file:

You can add a local tax when filing a return:

1. Select the dropdown arrow next to the blank row on the return.
2. Select the local tax that you need to add.
3. Enter the dollar amount for this local tax.

The new tax will be on your return the next time you file.

If you file by phone: You must register for this tax before you file your return. To register, call 651-282-5225 or email us at salesuse.tax@state.mn.us. If you send an email, include your Minnesota tax ID number.

Reporting the tax

Report the Stearns County transit sales and use tax when you report your Minnesota Sales and Use tax. Each tax is reported on a separate line of your return. Stearns County transit sales tax is line number 601; Stearns County transit use tax is line number 602.

Use tax

Stearns County transit use tax applies when you are located in the County and you buy items or services without paying the Stearns County transit sales tax.

Use tax is similar to sales tax and the rates are identical. It is based on your cost of taxable purchases. Common examples of when you owe use tax are when you:

- Buy items on the Internet, by phone, or from any business for use in Stearns County and the seller doesn't charge the local tax.

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- Buy items for resale at your business in Stearns County and then remove some of the items from inventory for business or personal use.

Calculating the tax

To calculate the total tax due on a purchase:

1. Add the 6.875 percent state sales tax rate and the 0.25 percent Stearns County transit rate.
2. Apply the combined 7.125 percent rate, plus any other local taxes that apply, to the sales price.

Refer to [Fact Sheet #164S](#), *Special Local Taxes*, for a list of special taxes that might apply.

3. Round the total to the nearest full cent.

You can download a 7.125 percent rate chart from our website or call us to request a paper rate chart.

When to charge the tax

Charge the Stearns County transit sales tax when customers buy taxable items or services in the county, unless they give you a valid exemption certificate.

The tax applies to purchases for business or personal use, even if the customer is from elsewhere or takes the items out of Stearns County.

Exemption certificates

If a customer gives you a fully completed exemption certificate for state sales tax, also use that certificate as proof of exemption from the Stearns County transit sales and use tax.

Local governments

Local governments are not required to pay the Stearns County transit sales and use tax (or other local general sales taxes). No exemption certificate is necessary. But state sales tax may apply.

Handling Transitional Sales

Stearns County transit sales and use tax applies to sales on or after January 1, 2018, but the tax does not apply to the following:

- Lease payments for tangible personal property and motor vehicles that include periods before January 1, 2018. (The tax does apply to payments for periods that begin on or after that date.)
- The purchase of tangible personal property ordered before January 1, 2018, if the transfer of title or possession is prior to that date.
- The purchase of taxable services, including utility services, if the billing period includes charges for services furnished before and after January 1, 2018, (But the tax does apply if the billing period begins with services furnished on or after that date.)
- The purchase of admission tickets if they are paid for before January 1, 2018, even if the event occurs after that date.
- The purchase of construction materials used to complete a lump sum or fixed price construction contract that was signed and enforceable before January 1, 2018, but only if all the following are true:
 - The contract does not provide for an allocation of future taxes.
 - The materials are used exclusively in performing the contract.
 - The materials are delivered before July 1, 2018.

Information and Assistance

Call: 651-296-6181 or toll-free 1-800-657-3777

Fax: 651-556-3102

Email: salesuse.tax@state.mn.us

Write: Minnesota Revenue
Sales and Use Tax Division
Mail Station 6330
St. Paul, MN 55146-6330

Or visit our website at www.revenue.state.mn.us