

Washington County 0.5% Transit Sales and Use Tax and \$20 Vehicle Excise Tax

Starting October 1, 2021, the Washington County transit sales and use tax increased to 0.5%. (The previous sales and use tax rate was 0.25%). Department of Revenue will administer this tax. Revenues will fund the projects identified in the Washington County Resolution No. 2021-072 as amended by Washington County Resolution No. 2025-136 adopted December 16, 2025.

The 0.5% transit sales tax applies to retail sales made into Washington County. The transit use tax applies to taxable items used in Washington County if the local sales tax was not paid.

A \$20 Transit vehicle excise tax applies to sales of motor vehicles registered for road use. This excise tax must be collected by any person in the business of selling new or used motor vehicles at retail when the sale occurs in Washington County.

Who Must Register and Collect the Tax

All retailers who have a taxable presence (nexus) in Washington County, even if an out-of-state retailer or marketplace, and are registered for Minnesota sales and use tax. This includes all sellers outside Washington County if they have a taxable presence such as:

- Have an office, distribution, sales, sample or warehouse location, or other place of business in Washington County, either directly or by a subsidiary.
- Perform taxable services in Washington County
- Ship taxable items into Washington County, including all sales made using the internet, mail order, or telephone.
- An out-of-state retailer that exceeds Minnesota sales tax thresholds and make sales into Washington County.

If you are already registered for this tax, you do not need to register again. For more information about taxable presence, see Form ABR, Minnesota Application for Business Registration.

Registering for the Tax

If you file Sales and Use Tax returns online, you can register for this tax before the start date, or when you file the tax collected beginning January 1, 2021.

To Register Before You File

1. Log in to e-Services and access your Sales and Use Tax account.
2. In the Sales & Use Tax section, select **Manage Locations**.
3. In the Existing Sales Locations list, select the **Location Code number** for the location you want to edit.
4. In the Available Actions section, select the **Edit Location** link.
5. If the General Information and the NAICS code are correct, select **Next**.
6. If you need to end a tax enter a date and select **Next**, if you do not need to end a tax, select **Next**.

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7. Add any special local taxes, and select **Next**, if you do not need to add a special local tax, select **Next**.
8. Select the check box for **Washington County Transit Sales and Use**. Select the **Next** button.
9. Review the section titled Local Sales and Other Taxes – verify the Washington County Transit Sales and Use Tax is listed. If the new tax is listed, select the **Submit** button.
10. Review the Confirmation Summary. You can then select **Close**.

To Register When You File in e-Services

You can add a local tax when filing a return:

1. Select the link **Add a Tax Line** at the bottom of the return.
2. From the Tax Type Column, select the dropdown menu to select the local tax you need to add.
3. Enter the taxable dollar amount for the local tax.

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

Reporting the Tax

Report the Washington County Transit Sales or Use Tax when you report your Minnesota Sales and Use Tax.

Each tax is reported on a separate line of your return. Washington County Transit Sales Tax is line number 452; Washington County Transit Use Tax is line number 453, and the vehicle excise tax is line number 454.

Calculating the Tax

To calculate the tax:

1. Add the Minnesota General State sales and use tax rate to the 0.5% Washington County transit tax.
2. Add any other local taxes that apply.
3. Apply the combined rate to the sales prices. For more information see Fact Sheet 164S, *Special Local Taxes*.
4. Round the total to the nearest full cent.

Exemption Certificates

If a customer gives you a completed exemption certificate for state sales tax, also use that certificate as proof of exemption from the Washington County Transit Sales or Use Tax.

Local Governments

Local governments do not pay the Washington County Transit Sales or Use Tax (or other local general sales taxes). No exemption certificate is necessary. State sales tax may apply.

Local governments include cities, towns, counties, instrumentalities, political subdivisions, commissions, special districts, and government boards.

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Transitional Sales

Washington County Transit Sales and Use Tax rate increase applies to sales on or after October 1, 2021, but the tax rate increase does not apply to the following:

- Lease payments for tangible personal property and motor vehicles that include periods before October 1, 2021. (The tax does apply to payments for periods that begin on or after that date.)
- The purchase of tangible personal property ordered before October 1, 2021, 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 October 1, 2021, (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 October 1, 2021, 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 October 1, 2021, 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 April 1, 2022.

Information and Assistance

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

Fax: 651-556-3102

Email: salesuse.tax@state.mn.us

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

Visit our website at www.revenue.state.mn.us