

Motor Vehicle Frequent Questions

Motor vehicles are assessed as of October 1st and due in full July 1st of the following year. In accordance with §12-71d of the Connecticut General Statutes, is recommending the use of the National Automobile Dealers Association (N.A.D.A.) Guides

Q. I sold this car - why am I getting a tax bill on it?

A. If you have disposed of a vehicle prior to the end of the assessment period and not transferred license plates to another vehicle, you will need to provide proof of this to the Assessor's Office for a possible proration of this bill. If you transferred the license plates to another vehicle, credits will automatically be issued against the newer vehicle **and this bill should be paid in full.**

Q. I moved from Norwalk to another town in Connecticut, why is Norwalk sending me a motor vehicle tax bill?

A. Taxes are assessed on October 1st. If your vehicle was still registered in Norwalk at that time, you will receive a bill from Norwalk and you will not receive one from the town where you currently live until the following year. This is because municipalities within Connecticut do not apportion motor vehicle tax bills for portions of a tax year.

Q. I moved out of Connecticut, why is Norwalk sending me a motor vehicle tax bill?

A. If your vehicle was still registered in Connecticut on October 1st and you have since reregistered in another state you will need to provide **a copy of your new registration and a copy of the Connecticut plate cancellation receipt** to the Assessor's Office to have the bill prorated for the time that you were in Connecticut.

Q. I am being improperly billed for a motor vehicle, what should I do?

A. Contact the Assessor's Office at (203) 854-7888. *Do not ignore the bill.* Even if the vehicle has been sold, the plates returned to DMV, stolen and not recovered, declared a total loss or if you have moved from Norwalk or from Connecticut. If any of these situations applies, you may be entitled to a credit.

Q. What is a supplemental motor vehicle bill?

A. Vehicles registered between October 2, and the following July 31, will appear on a supplemental motor vehicle list provided to the assessor by the DMV. The assessed value of each vehicle is prorated based upon the month of registration. If

you traded in a vehicle on a new vehicle, all taxes must be paid on the vehicle traded in. You will receive a credit on the supplemental bill based on the total taxes billed on the original vehicle. Supplemental motor vehicle bills are due in one installment on January 1.

Motor vehicles taxes are prorated from the month registered through September at the following percentages of assessed value:

October.....100.00%

November.....91.7%

December.....83.3%

January.....75.0%

February.....66.7%

March.....58.3%

April.....50.0%

May.....41.7%

June.....33.3%

July.....25.0%

Q. When does my tax bill become delinquent?

A. Taxes due July 1st must be paid no later than August 1st, taxes due January 1st must be paid no later than February 1st to avoid interest. Interest is at the rate of 1.5% per month (\$2.00 minimum) or any part thereof, from the original due date of the tax. All delinquent motor vehicle taxes are reported to DMV. You will not be able to renew or register any vehicle in your name until all taxes, interest and collection costs are paid in full. ***For 2020, July 1 bills are due October 1.***

Q. I need to register my car and have delinquent taxes. What do I need from the tax collector's office?

A. All outstanding vehicle taxes associated with your name and/or your vin #, including taxes not yet delinquent, must be paid in full in order to obtain a motor vehicle release form from the tax collector's office. Payment must be made by cash,

money order or cashier's check in order to receive release. If paid by personal check, a release cannot be given for 30 business days after the tax collector deposits your check in the bank.

Q. I have moved. Who do I tell?

A. Per Connecticut law, all Connecticut residents are required to notify the DMV of a change of address within 48 hours. This applies to your license **and** your registration. You should also inform **the Tax Collector's office at 203-854-7731** of the change so that they can send future billings to the correct location.

Q. Can I file an Assessment Appeal?

A. Assessment appeals should first be directed to your assessor and then to the local Board of Assessments Appeals (BAA). The BAA meets during the month of September. September is solely for appeals relating to motor vehicle assessments appearing on the preceding October 1st Grand List. Appearance before the BAA is required in order for the Board to consider your appeal. If you are unable to appear in person, you may give written authorization for someone to appear on your behalf as your agent. All documentation substantiating your appeal should be presented during the meeting. Any questions regarding the appeal process should be directed to your local tax assessor.

Q. Are there any exemptions available?

A. Property tax exemptions are available to qualified individuals such as: honorably discharged veterans, or their surviving spouses may be eligible for exemptions/and or assistance with their property tax payments. For further information about these exemptions please contact the Assessor's Office.