

FAQ's Motor Vehicle Excise

1. How is the value of my vehicle determined?
 - a. The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) uses the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) to determine the value.
2. How does the value change?
 - a. The RMV then depreciates the value annually until the vehicle is 5 years old. At that point the value of the vehicle will remain constant at 10% of the MSRP.
3. How is the tax computed?
 - a. State law is \$25.00 per \$1,000 of value.
 - i. Example – if your vehicle is valued at \$5,000, then the tax = \$125.00
 - ii. Example 2 – if your vehicle is valued at \$1,000 then the tax = \$25.00
 - b. An excise bill cannot, by law, be less than \$5.00.
4. When is my Excise payment due?
 - a. Motor Vehicle Excise bills are due and payable 30 days after their issuance.
5. Where can I pay the excise bill?
 - a. At the Tax Collector's Office, 2nd floor, Town Hall.
 - b. OR, you can pay it online using "UniPay Online", found on the town's website.
6. If I sell or trade in my vehicle, how can I get a refund (abatement)?
 - a. By law you are required to return your license plates or transfer them to another vehicle. A copy of the Plate Return Receipt (if you cancelled it or returned it to the RMS) or a copy of the new registration if you transferred the plates to the new vehicle.
 - b. You will also need to show either a Bill of Sale or a copy of the trade-in paperwork which shows the former vehicle's VIN.
 - c. The application form is available on this website.
 - d. An abatement cannot lower the value below \$5.00.
7. How long do I have to wait to receive my refund?
 - a. It usually takes between 4 – 6 weeks.
8. I am a Disabled Veteran. Can I be exempted from Motor Vehicle Excise?
 - a. Maybe. Certain conditions apply. Please call the Assessors Office for more information at 508-866-3410.
9. Are there any other exemptions available?
 - a. Yes.
 - i. Vehicles owned and registered by the United States, Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any political subdivision of the Commonwealth are exempt.
 - ii. Vehicles owned and registered by a charitable or religious organization that qualifies for an exemption from personal property taxes are exempt from the motor vehicle excise.
 - iii. Disabled and Blind Non-Veterans, who meet the disability standards set by the RMS.
 - iv. Disabled and Blind Veterans, who qualify under certain circumstances, or who qualify as determined by the RMV Medical Advisory Board.
10. I lease a vehicle. What are my rights?
 - a. As the lessee of the vehicle you are not the owner. Therefore, any questions about the value or an abatement can only be done by the leasing company.

For more information, please contact the Assessors Office at 508-866-3410.

For payment questions, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 508-866-3434.