

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · KENT

Kent Car Registration, Fees and Good To Go! Guide 2026

For people bringing a car from another state or from abroad, buying a car in Kent, or using the SR 167 express toll lanes.

SHORT ANSWER

The order is: Washington license first, then registration within 30 days. Registration is not done at a DOL office but at Kent Licensing Agency, **walk-in only**: 22717 72nd Ave S, Suite B-108, 253-852-3110, weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every car starts at a \$43.25 base fee. Unlike Seattle, Kent charges no \$50 city transportation fee. Emissions testing ended January 1, 2020.

Step by step

- 1 License first, then registration.** DOL wants a valid Washington license before it registers a vehicle. Licensing agencies take no appointments, so you queue; they do not handle driver licenses either. Two offices, two separate 30-day clocks.
- 2 Go to the right address.** The Kent office is a private subagent licensed by King County: Kent Licensing Agency, 22717 72nd Ave S, Suite B-108, Kent WA 98032-2403, 253-852-3110. Its hours are wider than the county counter in Seattle. Hours can change, so call before you go.
- 3 Documents.** Bring your current title and note the odometer reading. Done at the office, plates are issued the same day.
- 4 If you bought the car,** transfer the title within 15 days. On day 16 a \$50 late fee starts, then \$2 a day up to \$125. In a private sale you need the signed title, a Vehicle Title Application signed in front of the licensing agent, an odometer disclosure for model year 2011 and newer, and a bill of sale showing the price.
- 5 A car from another state or from abroad.** A \$50 service fee covers the stolen-vehicle check; no physical VIN inspection has been required since 2001. For a car shipped from abroad the Customs paperwork must be signed and stamped by U.S. Customs itself.

What does it cost in Kent?

ITEM	AMOUNT
Basic registration fee	\$43.25
Annual tabs	\$30

ITEM	AMOUNT
Kent city transportation fee	None (Seattle charges \$50, Des Moines \$40, Burien \$40, Kirkland \$20)
Sound Transit RTA excise tax	1.1% of depreciated MSRP
Filing and service fees	\$6 + \$11 for registration, \$12.50 + \$29 with a title
New plates (each)	\$50
Out-of-state service fee	\$50

- **The \$50 Kent does not charge:** DOL's list of local transportation benefit district fees shows Seattle at \$50, Lake Forest Park \$50, Burien \$40, Des Moines \$40, Kenmore \$40 and Kirkland \$20. Kent is not on that list, so no city share is added when you renew your tabs. The same is true of Federal Way, Auburn, Renton and Tukwila. For a two-car household that is about \$100 a year less than in Seattle.
- **The RTA tax still applies:** Kent is inside the Sound Transit district, so you pay a 1.1% regional transit tax on the depreciated MSRP, at purchase and at every renewal. On a new, expensive car that line alone can run into hundreds of dollars.
- **Use tax:** buy from a private party and you owe 0.3% motor vehicle use tax plus the sales tax rate at your address. In Kent that rate is 10.40% in the last quarter of 2026, against 10.55% in Seattle.
- **New-resident exemption:** a private vehicle you acquired and used in another state more than 90 days before moving is exempt from use tax if you license it in Washington within 30 days. Whether a car brought from Türkiye qualifies is unclear; ask DOL and the Department of Revenue.
- **Tab renewal:** once a year, online through License Express, by mail or at the agency. You cannot renew with unpaid tickets or unpaid tolls.

Is there an emissions test or safety inspection?

No. The state emission check program ended on **January 1, 2020**, no emissions test is required to renew registration, and there is no periodic safety inspection for private cars. The Clean Car Law still applies: new vehicles bought by Washington residents, and 2009-and-newer models with under 7,500 miles, must meet the California emission standard. Look for "California", "50-state" or "Northeast" on the VECI label under the hood.

How much insurance do you need?

COVERAGE	WASHINGTON MINIMUM
Bodily injury or death, per person	\$25,000
Bodily injury or death, per accident	\$50,000
Property damage	\$10,000

Driving uninsured brings a fine of \$550 or more. Carry your insurer's card. With no U.S. credit history your quotes may come back high, so shop several companies; the \$10,000 property damage limit is easy to exceed at today's car prices.

Which tolls do you meet once you leave Kent?

ROAD	PASS RATE (2-AXLE)
SR 167 express toll lanes (Renton to Sumner)	Every day 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., \$1 to \$15 depending on traffic. Free with a Flex pass and two or more people. This is the main north-south express route through Kent.
SR 509 Expressway (near Sea-Tac)	Weekdays \$1.20 to \$2.40 by time and direction, weekends \$1.20
SR 99 tunnel (downtown Seattle)	Weekdays \$1.25 (11 p.m. to 6 a.m.) up to \$2.80 (3 p.m. to 6 p.m.), weekends \$1.25 all day
SR 520 bridge (Seattle to Bellevue)	Weekdays \$1.35 to \$4.90, charged in both directions. The other lake crossing, I-90, is free
I-405 express toll lanes (Lynnwood to Bellevue)	Weekdays 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., \$1 to \$15 depending on traffic. Free at night and on weekends
Tacoma Narrows bridge (SR 16)	Tolled toward Tacoma only. \$4.50 with a pass, \$5.50 at the booth, \$6.50 by mail

Which pass should you buy?

- **Account:** [MyGoodToGo.com](https://www.mygoodtogo.com) or 1-866-936-8246 (free phone interpreter). Two account types: Pre-Paid (a \$30 opening balance) and Pay As You Go. No monthly fee. With no account the bill goes to your DOL address and **costs \$2 more per trip**.
- **Pass prices:** sticker pass \$5, Flex \$15, motorcycle \$8, license-plate pass \$12. If you live in Kent and commute on SR 167, Flex is the sensible choice: with two people aboard the express lane is free, so \$15 pays for itself in a few weeks.
- **The south end of SR 167:** the new section between Puyallup and the Port of Tacoma is open and free for now. WSDOT has announced that tolling between I-5 and the port starts in the winter of 2026 at a flat \$1 with a pass and \$3 by mail. Check the WSDOT page before you drive it.
- **The low-income discount matters in Kent:** for households up to 200% of the federal poverty level it starts in December 2026 and applies only on the SR 509 and SR 167 express routes, not on SR 520 or SR 99. The forms come in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese; Turkish is not among them.
- **If you do not pay:** a \$5 late fee after the due date; a \$40 civil penalty per toll after 80 days; and if the penalty is unpaid for 20 days, DOL puts a hold on your registration and you cannot renew your tabs. A one-time penalty waiver is available if you call before paying.
- **Scam warning:** the only official site is [MyGoodToGo.com](https://www.mygoodtogo.com). WSDOT says its texts come only from 75381 and that it never sends bills by text.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

After you move, update the address on your vehicle record and your Good To Go! account right away. Otherwise toll bills go to the old address and can run all the way to a penalty and a registration hold. If you are subject to address reporting, report the same move to USCIS within 10 days (AR-11).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN KENT

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Kent and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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