

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · REDMOND

Redmond Car Registration, Fees and SR 520 Tolls Guide 2026

There is no vehicle licensing agency in the city: where to go instead, what it costs, and the SR 520 bridge rate that changes by the hour.

SHORT ANSWER

The order is: Washington license first, then registration within 30 days. But a warning: **there is no vehicle licensing agency in Redmond**. Redmond is not on King County's list of 14 cities with a licensed subagent; the nearest are in Bellevue, Kirkland and Woodinville. Every car starts at a \$43.25 base fee. Unlike Seattle, Redmond charges no \$50 city transportation fee. Emissions testing ended January 1, 2020.

REDMOND'S LOCAL TRAP: NO AGENCY IN THE CITY

King County's own subagent list names Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Burien, Covington, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Renton, Seattle, Shoreline and Woodinville. **Redmond is not on it**. The good news is that the county says these subagents, King County and DOL all charge the same rates, so the price is the same wherever you go. You can also renew online through DOL's License Express and pick up the tabs at whichever agency you prefer.

The nearest agencies

OFFICE	ADDRESS	PHONE AND HOURS
Bel Red Auto License (nearest to the Redmond line)	15600 NE Eighth St, Suite K-16, Bellevue WA 98008	425-747-0444 · weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., title work stops at 3 p.m., closed Saturdays
Eastside Auto Licensing	8244 122nd Ave NE, Kirkland WA 98033	425-828-4371 · weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Woodinville License Agency	14138 NE Woodinville-Duvall Rd, Woodinville WA 98072	425-486-0289 · weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (quick title until 4:30), Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Alpine Management Services (Issaquah)	1175 NW Gilman Blvd, Suite B-3, Issaquah WA 98027	425-369-0409 · weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed Saturdays
King County counter	201 S Jackson St, Suite 206, Seattle WA 98104	206-477-4000 · weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Step by step

- 1 License first, then registration.** DOL wants a valid Washington license before it registers a vehicle. Agencies take no appointments, so you queue; they do not handle driver licenses either. Two offices, two separate 30-day clocks.
- 2 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.
- 3 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 Redmond?

ITEM	AMOUNT
Basic registration fee	\$43.25
Annual tabs	\$30
Redmond city transportation fee	None (Seattle charges \$50, Lake Forest Park \$50, Kenmore \$40, Mercer Island \$20, Kirkland \$20)
Sound Transit RTA excise tax	1.1% of depreciated MSRP
New plates (each)	\$50
Out-of-state service fee	\$50

- **The \$50 Redmond does not charge:** DOL's list of local transportation benefit district fees names Seattle, Lake Forest Park, Burien, Des Moines, Kenmore, Mercer Island and Kirkland. Redmond is not on it, so no city share is added when you renew your tabs. A neighbor in Kirkland pays \$20 more per car.
- **The RTA tax still applies:** Redmond 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 Redmond that is 10.40% in the last quarter of 2026, against 10.55% in Seattle.

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.

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.

SR 520: the one toll that touches Redmond directly

The floating bridge between Seattle and Medina is **tolled in both directions** and every private vehicle pays, carpools included. At weekday peak it is \$4.90 with a Good To Go! pass and \$6.90 by mail with no account, so a round trip costs \$9.80 with a pass. The other lake crossing, I-90, is free, and buses and the 2 Line are free alternatives to the toll.

TIME (WEEKDAYS)	WITH A GOOD TO GO! PASS	BY MAIL
Midnight to 5 a.m.	\$1.35	\$3.35
5 to 6 a.m.	\$2.75	\$4.75
6 to 7 a.m.	\$3.95	\$5.95
7 to 10 a.m.	\$4.90	\$6.90
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	\$3.95	\$5.95
3 to 7 p.m.	\$4.90	\$6.90
7 to 9 p.m.	\$3.95	\$5.95
9 to 11 p.m.	\$2.75	\$4.75
11 p.m. to midnight	\$1.35	\$3.35

At weekends and on six public holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas) there is one midday rate: \$2.95 with a pass and \$4.95 by mail from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., with early morning and night cheaper. Adding your plate to an account without a pass costs 25 cents more per trip.

Opening an account

- **Where:** 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.
- **Passes:** sticker pass \$5, Flex \$15, motorcycle \$8, license-plate pass \$12. **There is no carpool discount on SR 520**, so every vehicle pays; a Flex pass really pays off on the I-405 express toll lanes.

- **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.
- **Other tolls:** the I-405 express toll lanes (Lynnwood to Bellevue) run \$1 to \$15 by traffic on weekdays 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are free at night and at weekends; they do not pass through Redmond but start on the Bellevue side. The SR 99 tunnel and the Tacoma Narrows bridge do not come up in a daily Redmond commute.

HOW TO SKIP THE BRIDGE TOLL: THE 2 LINE

The dates get muddled, so here they are: the 2 Line did not reach Redmond in 2026. It ran from Bellevue to Redmond Technology station in **April 2024** and extended to Marymoor Village and Downtown Redmond on **May 10, 2025**. What opened on **March 28, 2026** was the lake crossing, the Crosslake Connection: the I-90 floating bridge plus the Mercer Island and Judkins Park stations came into service and made it possible to ride from Redmond to Seattle without changing trains. Before that date you could not reach Seattle from Redmond on Link at all. Today the line runs from Downtown Redmond all the way to Lynnwood City Center. The fare is a flat \$3.00 regardless of distance, which is less than the SR 520 peak toll.

FROM DOWNTOWN REDMOND STATION	TIME
Redmond Technology	about 6 minutes
Bellevue Downtown	about 19 minutes
International District/Chinatown (Seattle)	about 41 minutes
Westlake (downtown Seattle)	about 46 minutes
University of Washington	about 53 minutes
Lynnwood City Center	about 78 minutes

Marymoor Village station has a 1,403-space garage (31 accessible spaces); Downtown Redmond station has no Sound Transit parking of its own and sends you to the Marymoor Village garage. Neither station has a public restroom.

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 REDMOND

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Redmond and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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