

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · VIRGINIA BEACH

Virginia Beach Car Registration, Inspection, E-ZPass and Car Tax Guide 2026

For cars brought from another state, cars bought in Virginia, and anyone using Hampton Roads tolls, bridge-tunnels, or public transit.

SHORT ANSWER

After moving to Virginia, you have 30 days to title your vehicle, then a separate 30 days to register it, a different window from the 60 days you get for a license. Unlike Northern Virginia, Virginia Beach is not on the state's list of localities that require an emissions inspection before first registration; the annual safety inspection, however, applies statewide. Insurance minimums have been \$50,000/\$100,000/\$25,000 since January 1, 2025. The city's car tax rate is \$4.00 per \$100 of assessed value, and the first bill is due June 5.

Step by step: title and registration

- 1 Get Virginia insurance.** Minimum liability coverage effective January 1, 2025: \$50,000 per person / \$100,000 per accident bodily injury, \$25,000 property damage (the 2022-2024 minimums were \$30,000/\$60,000/\$20,000).
- 2 Title your vehicle within 30 days.** Moving from another state requires a completed title/registration application, proof of address, your prior state's title or registration card, and proof of purchase price if bought in the last 12 months. The title fee is \$15.
- 3 Register within the same 30 days** at a DMV office. Buckner and Hilltop are full-service; the DMV Select in City Hall also handles vehicle transactions, walk-in, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (2401 Courthouse Drive, Building 1). No emissions certificate is needed in Virginia Beach.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	AMOUNT
Title fee	\$15
Registration, passenger vehicle up to 4,000 lbs	\$30.75/year
Registration, passenger vehicle 4,001-6,500 lbs	\$35.75/year
Electric vehicle Highway Use Fee (in addition to registration)	\$135.63

ITEM	AMOUNT
Sales and use tax	4.15%, \$75 minimum

Multi-year registration discount: 2-year registration saves \$3 online/by phone or \$2 by mail/in person; 3-year registration saves \$4 online/by phone or \$3 by mail/in person. The limit on the 3-year discount for vehicles in emissions localities does not apply here, because Virginia Beach is not an emissions locality.

Inspections: no emissions test, but a safety inspection

- **No emissions inspection in Virginia Beach.** Virginia's list of localities that require an emissions inspection before first registration is all Northern Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, and Stafford counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park); Virginia Beach is not on it. Do not follow the "emissions test first" step you see in Northern Virginia guides.
- **Safety inspection is separate and required statewide.** Every vehicle needs an annual safety-inspection sticker from a licensed private repair shop, not from DMV. For locations or questions, DMV points to the Virginia State Police: (804) 674-2000. Driving without a valid sticker can lead to a fine and a mark on your driving record.

Insurance minimums and the risk of lapsing

Minimum liability coverage for policies effective on or after January 1, 2025: \$50,000 per person and \$100,000 per accident for bodily injury, \$25,000 for property damage. Statutory basis: Code of Virginia § 46.2-472. If coverage lapses, you must reinsure, deactivate the plates, or surrender them. Uninsured owners pay a \$600 non-compliance fee, must file an SR-22 for three years, and pay a reinstatement fee if applicable.

Virginia Beach car tax

- **Rate.** The city bills personal property (vehicle) tax at \$4.00 for each \$100 of assessed value. Value is taken from the January J.D. Power (NADA) loan value. Renters with a car pay this tax too.
- **State relief.** Virginia's PPTRA relief applies to the first \$20,000 of a qualifying personal-use vehicle's value.
- **Bills and deadline.** Vehicles registered with DMV by March 31 are billed in May, due June 5. Vehicles that arrive after March 31 receive a prorated supplemental bill between August and year end. The late penalty is 10% or \$10, whichever is greater.
- **Contact:** Commissioner of the Revenue (car tax and relief) 757-385-4251, 2401 Courthouse Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456; for payments, the Treasurer, 757-385-4445.
- The city also charges a local vehicle registration fee; check the city site for the amount, no figure is given here.

E-ZPass Virginia and local tolls

- **E-ZPass Virginia** is the shared tag and account used on every Virginia toll facility, run by VDOT. Customer service: 1-877-762-7824, weekdays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can also buy E-ZPass at the DMV Select in City Hall.
- **Hampton Roads Express Lanes (I-64)**: the Chesapeake Express Lanes (about 14 miles, from Bowers Hill to the I-264 interchange in Norfolk) operate 24/7, and the I-64 Norfolk Reversible Express Lanes have full-time tolling. General-purpose lanes stay free. An E-ZPass Flex is needed for the HOV discount. Check vdot.virginia.gov for current information.
- **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT)**: links Virginia Beach to the Eastern Shore, has its own toll schedule, and accepts E-ZPass; peak pricing applies Friday to Sunday from May 15 to September 15. See cbbt.com/tolls for current rates.

TOLL-RATE WARNING

Toll rates on express lanes and bridge-tunnels change often. Check the operator's own site before you travel; no fixed dollar figure is given here.

Public transit: Hampton Roads Transit (HRT)

- Hampton Roads Transit runs the bus, ferry, and light rail. On HRT's fare page, a single trip is \$2.00 (\$1.00 discounted for seniors 65+, Medicare cardholders, and riders with disabilities); children 17 and under ride free with a fare-paying adult. A 1-day GoPass is \$4.50 and a 30-day pass is \$70. Cash must be exact fare. The fare page is dated 2023, so confirm current fares at gohrt.com/fares.
- The Tide light rail reaches Virginia Beach only at its eastern end, Newtown Road Station; it does not go to the Oceanfront. For the Oceanfront, use Route 20 (express bus from Downtown Norfolk) and, in season, the VB Wave trolleys. Customer service: 757-222-6100.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

After you move, update the address on your vehicle registration. If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, you must also report your new address to USCIS within 10 days (AR-11).

TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN VIRGINIA BEACH

Have a question about your immigration status?



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