



Buying a vehicle?

From 1 October 2014 the tax
is no longer transferable
so you must tax it before
you use it.

Frequently Asked Questions

Buying/Selling a Vehicle

1. If I buy a second hand car after the 1st October 2014, how am I meant to drive this away as the tax will cease at the point of sale?

You can tax the vehicle using the New Keeper Supplement (V5C/2) part of the Vehicle Registration Certificate (V5C) online or by using our automated phone service – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Alternatively, you may wish to visit a Post Office® branch that deals with vehicle tax.

We are unable to check the vehicle insurance details for new keepers in Northern Ireland (NI) online or by phone. NI new keepers should tax at a Post Office® branch that deals with vehicle tax.

2. Will there be a grace period between the point of sale to allow me to drive to a Post Office to tax the car or to drive the vehicle home?

There will be no period of grace. In order to use a vehicle, the buyer must always obtain new vehicle tax immediately upon the point of sale.

DVLA always advise that vehicles should not be purchased without sight of the Vehicle Registration Certificate (V5C). Any person buying a vehicle should insist on having the New Keeper Supplement (V5C/2) which allows the buyer to obtain a new vehicle tax immediately.

3. Can I use the online or phone service to tax my car at the point of sale to allow me to legally drive the vehicle?

Yes, this service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week online and by phone. Confirmation of tax is provided at the point of taxing.

4. Why has the decision been made to not allow the transfer of remaining periods of car tax to be passed to new owners?

This is a customer protection measure. As there is no paper tax disc to check, the vehicle tax will end when a vehicle is sold. This will remove any doubt for the person buying the vehicle as it will mean that customers will always be certain that they need to obtain new vehicle tax.

5. Why should motorists miss out on saving hundreds of pounds on remaining 'road tax' which can range from £20-£490 a year depending on CO2 emissions?

As the tax is not transferable, when selling a vehicle, on or after the 1 October 2014, the person named on the DVLA register will get an automatic refund of any full calendar months tax remaining when a notification is received from them advising that the:

- vehicle has been sold or transferred
- vehicle has been scrapped at an Automated Treatment Facility
- vehicle has been exported

- vehicle has been removed from the road and the person on the vehicle register has made a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN)
- vehicle has changed to a nil rate of duty tax class

6. Once 1 October 2014 arrives, will this be the end to selling a car with tax?

Yes, from 1 October 2014 the vehicle tax will be non-transferrable.

7. If I drive a friend's, relative's or rental car, how can I check if it's taxed?

You can check the licensing status of a vehicle by going to www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax

8. How will I claim a refund of vehicle tax from the 1 October 2014?

You will get an automatic refund when DVLA receive notification from you as registered keeper (see question 5 above for notification events).

It is important that you tell DVLA of any changes for example, change of name or address, as any refund will be paid to the name and address we have on our records (shown on the Vehicle Registration Certificate V5C). To update DVLA with a change of name or address details, you will need to fill in Section 6 of the V5C, sign the declaration and return the whole V5C to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BA.

9. If I sell my vehicle during September, can I still sell it with tax on it?

Yes. The new changes do not take place until 1 October 2014.

10. If I sell my vehicle on the 30 September 2014, will I get an automatic refund of vehicle tax?

No. If you sell the vehicle before the 1 October 2014, you will still need to send in a Refund Application for Vehicle Tax (V14) form to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1AL.

11. Will a motor trader still be able to tax the vehicle for me?

Yes. A motor trader will still be able to tax a vehicle on behalf of a customer using a V5C/2 before the customer drives it away. From 1 October 2014, motor traders will be able to do this online or over the phone.

Motor Traders in Northern Ireland (NI) will need to continue to tax at the Post Office as we are unable to check the vehicle insurance details for new keepers in Northern Ireland (NI) online or by phone.