

# Legalizing a Vehicle

## Vehicle Safety Inspection

All vehicles operating in Virginia are required to pass an annual safety inspection and display a valid inspection sticker on the car's windshield. For more information and to find a safety inspection station, contact the Virginia State Police at [vsp.virginia.gov](http://vsp.virginia.gov) or 804-674-6774.

## Vehicle Title

Vehicles must be titled with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Visit [dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles](http://dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles) to learn more.

## Emissions Inspection

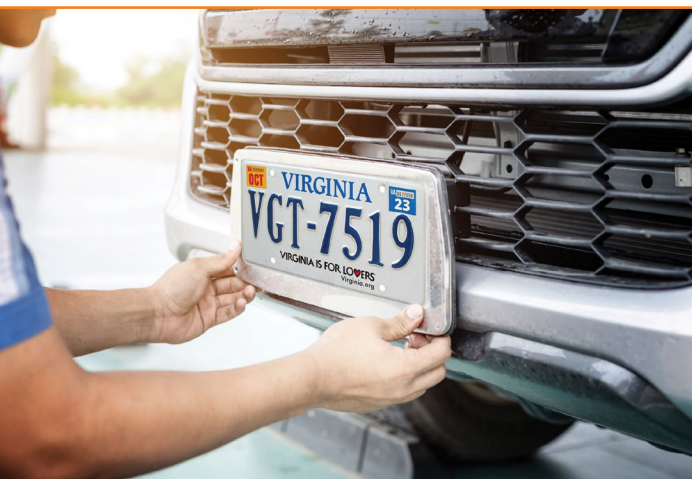
In Prince William County, vehicles must receive a passing emissions inspection or a waiver to register or renew registration with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. This does not apply to motorcycles or vehicles that qualify as antiques. Visit [dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles](http://dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles) to learn more.

## Vehicle Insurance

Vehicles must meet Virginia's vehicle insurance requirements. Visit [dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles](http://dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles) to learn more.

## Vehicle Registration

A vehicle must be registered and display two license plates. Visit [dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles](http://dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles) to learn more.



## Solid Waste Management Decals

Residents of Prince William County may use the Prince William County Landfill and Balls Ford Road Compost Facility. Vehicles must be registered in Prince William County to be eligible.

For residents to enter these facilities, a Solid Waste Disposal decal must be displayed on the windshield.

To apply for a decal, visit [pwcva.gov/department/solid-waste-management/get-landfill-decal](http://pwcva.gov/department/solid-waste-management/get-landfill-decal).



Limit two decals per household.



# New Resident Vehicle Guide

Prince William County  
Tax Administration Division  
1 County Complex Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-792-6710  
[pwcva.gov/department/tax-administration](http://pwcva.gov/department/tax-administration)

**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
Finance

This introductory guide provides new Prince William County residents with a starting point on what they need to do regarding their vehicles and documentation within 30 to 60 days of moving into the county and state of Virginia.

**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
Finance

## New to the State of Virginia

Drivers must have a Virginia driver's license. New residents of Virginia must obtain a Virginia driver's license within 60 days of moving to Virginia.

Commercial drivers must obtain a Virginia commercial driver's license (CDL) within 30 days if they currently hold one from outside of Virginia.

Provide the following documents proving eligibility to apply for a Virginia driver's license:

- One proof of identity.
- One proof of legal presence.
- Two proofs of Virginia residency.
- One proof of Social Security number (SSN), if one has been issued. A SSN is required for a CDL.
- Current driver's license issued by another U.S. state, territory or jurisdiction, if applicable, must be exchanged.
- Proof of name change if the name appears differently on the proof documents.

For more information, visit [dmv.virginia.gov](http://dmv.virginia.gov).



## New to Prince William County

In Prince William County, a personal property tax is assessed annually on automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, trailers and mobile homes. For more information on personal property taxes, visit [pwcva.gov/departement/tax-administration/personal-property-tax](http://pwcva.gov/departement/tax-administration/personal-property-tax).

To ensure that you receive a personal property tax invoice:

- Register or update your vehicle registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Review your registration to confirm the vehicle is registered in the jurisdiction of Prince William County.
- Contact the previous county, if applicable, from where you have moved.
- Contact Prince William County at [taxpayerservices@pwcgov.org](mailto:taxpayerservices@pwcgov.org) or 703-792-6710 and provide a copy of your vehicle registration.

### What is Personal Property Tax?

Personal Property Tax, also known as a car tax, is a tax on tangible property, i.e., property that can be touched and moved, such as a car or equipment. It is an ad valorem tax, meaning the tax amount is set according to the value of the property. Learn more at [pwcva.gov/departement/tax-administration/personal-property-tax](http://pwcva.gov/departement/tax-administration/personal-property-tax).

Revenue collected from the personal property tax funds police and fire protection, parks, libraries and education.

Virginia law requires localities to use a nationally recognized pricing guide as the basis for the assessment of vehicles. Prince William County contracts with J.D. Power (NADA), as approximately 95% of all vehicles in the county can be assessed using the J.D. Power (NADA) car value guide. The values used by J.D. Power (NADA) are based on actual transactions and wholesale auctions of vehicles throughout the area for which the guide is published. Most Virginia jurisdictions use J.D. Power (NADA) to assess vehicles.



Vehicles are assessed using the January J.D. Power (NADA) clean trade-in value for automobiles, trucks and vans. Newer vehicles not listed in the guide are assessed at a percentage of cost, or if cost information is unavailable, a percentage of the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP). Vehicles older than those listed in the guide are valued at a percentage of cost, a percentage of the prior year's assessment or another method that is representative of the value.

### Prorated Personal Property Tax

Vehicles moved into or out of Prince William County after January 1 are prorated based on the number of months that the vehicle has been or was located in the county unless moving from or to a non-prorating county.

### Local Vehicle Registration Fee

Along with personal property tax, an annual vehicle registration fee is charged on all vehicles principally housed, parked or garaged in Prince William County. This fee is separate from the vehicle registration fee charged by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Visit [pwcva.gov/departement/tax-administration/personal-property-tax](http://pwcva.gov/departement/tax-administration/personal-property-tax) to learn more.