

MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE

F A Q



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WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE?

The municipal vehicle registration fee has been allowed in Wisconsin since 1967 under Wis. Stat. §314.35, which allows a town, village, city or county to collect an annual vehicle registration fee (or wheel tax) in addition to the regular annual registration fee paid for:

- Autocycles
- Automobiles
- Trucks at 8,000 lbs. or less (except dual purpose farm)

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WHEN WILL THE MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE GO INTO EFFECT & WHAT IS THE COST?

Plates that expire in December expire after the last day of the month. A current registration with a DEC sticker means the plate is good through 12-31-2025. The customer's next registration will start on 1-1-2026 and go through 12-31-2026. City of Neenah's municipal vehicle registration fee is effective 1-1-2026 and the first day of the next registration is 1-1-2026 and the fee will apply.

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HOW MANY VEHICLES IN THE CITY OF NEENAH ARE SUBJECT TO THE FEE?

About 27,075 vehicles would be subject to the registration fee as of January 1, 2026.

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WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED REVENUE COLLECTION?

With a \$30 fee, the estimated annual revenue collected is \$812,250.

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HOW IS THE MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE COLLECTED?

The Wisconsin Department of transportation (WisDOT) collects the municipal vehicle registration fee at the time of vehicle registration or renewal along with any other registration fees. WisDOT keeps an administrative fee of 17 cents per vehicle application and sends the rest to the respective county or municipality.

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WHAT CAN THE MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE BE USED FOR?

Revenues collected from the municipal vehicle registration may only be used for transportation related purposes, such as maintenance and repair of roads/paths/trails, pedestrian safety improvements, lights/signals/signs, traffic markings, and landscaped medians and roundabouts. Collected fees cannot be used or transferred for other government purposes and are not subject to levy limits.

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WHICH OTHER JURISDICTIONS HAVE ENACTED A MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE?

As of July 2025, 50 municipalities and 13 counties have implemented a fee. You can find a current list of all participating municipalities and counties, as well as the specific fee amounts, on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) website.

WHAT VEHICLES ARE EXEMPT FROM THE MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE?

The following vehicles are exempt from the municipal vehicle registration fee:

- Buses, motorcycles, mopeds, motor homes, low-speed vehicles and trailers.
- Trucks registered as more than 8,000 pounds.
- Farm or dual purpose farm trucks.
- Antique, collector, driver education, historic military, hobbyist, human service, low-speed, medal of honor, municipal, stated-owned, special X and one vehicle with ex-prisoner of war registration issued to any qualified individual.
- Any vehicle with registration issued by a Wisconsin Indian tribe or band.
- Vehicles displaying dealer, distributor, finance company or manufacturer plates.

WHAT IF I HAVE A NEENAH ADDRESS BUT DON'T LIVE IN THE CITY OF NEENAH?

Some residents have a Neenah mailing address but reside outside the city limits and are therefore not subject to the fee. When registering your vehicle, be sure to indicate the accurate location where the vehicle is kept.

WISCONSIN				000002		PRESORTED First Class Mail US POSTAGE PAID Madison, WI Permit No. 1369	
LICENSE PLATE RENEWAL NOTICE							
Registration Expires	License	VIN	Model Year	Make	Total Due		
01/19/2011	AUT 121ABC	2FAHP71W93X168967	2003	FORD	\$75.00		
Vehicle kept in COUNTY OF DANE, CITY OF MADISON					Fleet Number		
Return this card to: Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation PO Box 3279, Milwaukee, WI 53201-3279					XXXXXXXXXX		
					RRN 20255100345		
Return this card with check payable to Registration Fee Trust.							
20255100345121ABC 01192012AUT0007500NRD							
 Opt Out regarding open records laws (see instructions on back)							
Add \$10 late fee if received by DMV after EXPIRES date. Try renewing ONLINE with a charge card at wisconsindmv.gov \$1 service fee.							
CITIZEN JANE Q 4802 SHEBOYGAN AVE MADISON WI 53705-2927							
							

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CAN THE CITY WAIVE OR MAKE EXCEPTIONS TO THE FEE? WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL FOR REFUNDS?

State law does not allow for exemptions or waivers to municipal registration fees beyond what the state has exempted and does not grant the City the authority to waive the fee based on income, vehicle type, or need. The full fee is always required to issue or renew registration and is never prorated. Refunds for fees paid in error are handled by WisDOT. Wisconsin.dot.gov

- Email: vehiclequestions@dot.wi.gov
- Telephone: (608) 264-7447
- Mail: PO Box 8070, Madison, WI 53708-8070

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IS THE MUNICIPAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE (MVRF) REPLACING THE TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT REPLACEMENT FEE (TARF)?

Yes. Previously the City of Neenah used the TARF to help offset the special assessment costs for street reconstruction projects, the MVRF will now offset those special assessment costs.

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CAN THE MVRF REVENUE BE USED ON BRAND NEW STREETS IN NEW SUBDIVISIONS?

No. MVRF revenue can only be used for maintenance and repair to existing roads. New subdivisions typically have a temporary asphalt mat put down until the permanent street/curb and gutter/apron and sidewalk is installed. When that permanent street is installed the property owners in those subdivisions will be assessed for the full cost of that project.