



Town of Vinton

Questions and Answers Regarding the Vehicle License Fee (VLF)

1. **What is the Vehicle License Fee (VLF)?**

At the time the decal fee was eliminated, the Town of Vinton Council adopted a Vehicle License Fee (VLF). The VLF is authorized by the State Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-752, and was adopted by the Town Council pursuant to Ordinance No. 851.

The VLF is levied on every motor vehicle, trailer, and semitrailer registered and licensed with DMV and garaged in the Town of Vinton as of January 1st of every year. This fee covers the administrative cost of maintaining personal property records. If your vehicle or trailer is assessed taxes for that year, then you are also levied the VLF. Unlike prorated personal property taxes, the VLF is a nonprorated and nonrefundable fee.

2. **Do I still need a Town decal for my vehicle's windshield?**

No. The Town Council voted on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 to eliminate the Town decal effective with the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008.

3. **When will I be able to scrape the old 2007 Town decal off of my windshield?**

The 2007 Town decal can be scrapped off of your windshield as of May 31, 2008.

4. **Although a Town decal will not be issued, will I still be charged a fee?**

Yes. Town of Vinton residents will still be charged a Vehicle License Fee. By not using a decal, and by combining the fee with the tax bill, the Town of Vinton joins many other cities, towns and counties across the Commonwealth which have changed their decal laws.

5. Will I receive a bill in the mail for my Vehicle License Fee?

Yes. The Vehicle License Fee will be included as a separate item on the annual Personal Property tax bills sent by the Town Treasurer. You will not receive a separate bill.

6. How much is the Vehicle License Fee?

On most motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers the fee is \$20.00 per year. The fee on motorcycles is \$15.00 per year. The fee on vehicles with a gross weight in pounds of 4,001 or more is \$25.00. The fee on an antique vehicle, defined and licensed in title 46.2 of the Code of Virginia, is a one-time only \$5.00 fee.

7. When is the Vehicle License Fee due?

The Vehicle License Fee is due, together with your annual Personal Property taxes, on or before May 31, or as indicated on your tax bill.

8. What will happen if I do not pay my Vehicle License Fee and/or Personal Property Taxes in the current year?

Instead of requiring decals (“stickers”), the Town of Vinton now works with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to withhold registrations of vehicles whose taxes are unpaid. This is a better enforcement tool because it only affects customers who are delinquent, instead of requiring everyone to display a decal.

9. If I owned my vehicle for two years and never paid a Vehicle License Fee, will I be required to pay for those outstanding years even though there is no longer a Town Decal?

Yes. According to the Virginia’s Attorney General, the Town Treasurer is authorized to charge the owner for outstanding Vehicle License Fees dating back three years.

10. If I receive 100% tax credit under the Personal Property Tax Relief Act for my vehicle, which is valued at \$1,000 or less and used for non-business purposes, will I receive a bill for a Vehicle License Fee?

Yes. The Vehicle License Fee will now be included on the annual Personal Property tax bill. If, due to the PPTRA tax credit, you do not pay Personal Property taxes, you will still receive a bill for the Vehicle License Fee.

11. If I move from the Town of Vinton to another state and/or locality in the Commonwealth, will I receive a refund for my Vehicle License Fee?

No. Under the new ordinance, there is no refund for moving from the Town of Vinton or for a vehicle that you have sold or disposed of. However, if you sell or dispose of the vehicle and replace it with another vehicle within 60 days, you can apply to the Commissioner of the Revenue’s office to have the fee

transferred to the new vehicle for the cost of \$1.00. This transaction must take place within the same fiscal year, and a disposal (the sale, removal, or junking of a vehicle) must occur before the new vehicle is added to the Town's records. If the new vehicle is added before the sale or disposal of the first vehicle, a second Vehicle License Fee must be paid in full.

12. I own a vehicle or trailer for which I have been billed, but I am not currently operating the vehicle or trailer. Do I still have to pay the Vehicle License Fee?

Yes. If you own a vehicle that is registered in the Town of Vinton, even if it is inoperable, you are still required to pay a Vehicle License fee for the said vehicle.

13. How will the Town know when I purchase another vehicle?

Weekly, Roanoke County receives information from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles about newly acquired vehicles garaged in Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton and provides this information to the Town.

14. You should notify the Commissioner of the Revenue's office when any of the following events occur:

- a. A change in ownership due to purchase, acquisition, sale, trade or disposal.
- b. A change in the name or address of the person or persons owning or leasing the motor vehicle, trailer or motorcycle.
- c. A change in the use of the motor vehicle, trailer, or motorcycle from personal to business use or vice versa.
- d. Occurrence of an event which causes a motor vehicle, trailer or motorcycle to acquire or lose location.
- e. Any other change affecting the assessment or levy of Personal Property tax on the motor vehicle, trailer or motorcycle for which a return was previously filed.

15. How soon after a change in location or other triggering event should I notify the Commissioner of the Revenue?

After the change in location or other triggering event, you should contact the Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue's office within sixty (60) days: Telephone (540) 772-2046. Any notifications received in the Town of Vinton Treasurer's Office will be provided to the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue.

16. I haven't lived in the Town of Vinton since, why am I still getting a bill?

Whenever you move out of a locality, it's necessary to re-register your vehicle at the new locality. If you move but do not change your vehicle registration at DMV, it's possible that the vehicle will remain taxable by the locality until you

do make that change. Changing the address on your driver's license **does not** automatically change the address on your vehicle registration(s).

17. I haven't had this car all year long, why is it still on my bill?

Whenever you buy, sell, trade, or junk a vehicle, it's necessary to notify DMV and also the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office, within sixty (60) days. By not acting within this time frame, it's possible that a vehicle can remain in your name at DMV and on the Town's tax records. Please contact the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office at (540)772-2046 to determine the proper documentation required to remove a vehicle from your account.

18. Is it true that I can get a ticket for not taking off my old Town decal (sticker)?

Yes. It is true that there is a state law prohibiting the display of any expired stickers or decals (including parking permits, inspections stickers, etc.) Any officer in any locality, not just the Town of Vinton, has the discretion to issue tickets for this violation.