
NEW RESIDENT RESOURCES



A Guide to Driver Licenses and IDs

New Texas Residents:

- **Initial Driving Privileges:** You can legally driver with a valid, unexpired driver license for another U.S. state, U.S. territory, Canadian province, or qualifying country for up to 90-days after moving to Texas.
- **Transferring Out-of-State Licenses:** If you have a valid driver license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, or Canada, you must surrender your out-of-state license and are not required to take the knowledge or skills exams.
- **Evidence of Texas Vehicle Registration:** Before applying for a Texas driver license, ensure all your vehicles are registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Visit <https://www.texas.gov/driver-services/texas-vehicle-registration/> for more info.
- **Reciprocity Agreements:** Texas has license reciprocity with France, Germany, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and Taiwan. If you have a valid, unexpired driver license from one of these countries, you are not required to take the knowledge or skills exam unless you choose to keep your out-of-country license.
- **Translation Requirements:** Foreign licenses not in English or Spanish must be translated by a translation service or your consulate before arriving in Texas. Foreign marriage licenses not in English must be submitted with a certified English translation.

Waivers:

- **Age 18 and Older:** If you hold a valid out-of-state driver license or license not expired over two years you are exempt from the knowledge and skills exams, as well as the ITD and adult driver education requirements.
- **Reciprocity Countries:** If you have a valid, unexpired driver license from France, South Korea, Germany, United Arab Emirates or Taiwan, the knowledge and skills exams may be waived.

Minors (Under age 18):

- **Knowledge Exam:** If you have a valid driver license or learners license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, or Canadian province, you do not have to take the knowledge exam.
- **Surrendering Licenses:** Applicants who surrender a valid license/permit from another state will be issued the equivalent TX version.
- **Non-U.S./Canada:** If you are under 18 from a country other than the U.S. or Canada, you must take and pass the knowledge exam.
- **Learners License Holding Period:** Texas law requires that anyone issued a Texas learner license must hold it for at least six months or until they are 18 years of age.
- **Skills Exam:** All applicants under age 18 must take the skills exam.

Learner Licenses:

- **Transferring Learner Licenses:** If you have a valid, unexpired learner license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, Canada, France, South Korea, Germany, United Arab Emirates or Taiwan, you do not have to take the knowledge exam. You must still complete the Impact Texas Driver (ITD) course and pass the skills exam to advance to a driver provisional license.

Active Duty and Recently Discharged Military:

- **Exemption Eligibility:** U.S. military personnel on active duty or individuals discharged within the last 90 days with an expired driver license from another state may be exempt from the knowledge and skills exams.
- **Requirements:** To qualify, applicants must present a valid military ID and provide proof of the issuing state's military extension policy.

Obtaining a Texas Identification (ID) card

- **Requirements:** New Texas residents who want to apply for a Texas ID card must meet all requirements, including proof of Texas residency and identification.

Vehicle Title and Registration Information for New Texans

Be sure to register your vehicle within 30 days of moving to Texas; otherwise, penalty fees may apply.



Welcome to our great state! There are four steps to title and register your vehicle in Texas as a new Texas resident. The steps must be followed in the order listed below.

1. Obtain Texas vehicle insurance.

- The Texas Department of Insurance website has details on policy requirements. Some out of state insurance policies may be acceptable; contact your insurance agent for assistance.

2. Obtain an applicable Texas vehicle inspection at any state inspection station within your new county of residence.

- Effective January 1, 2025, House Bill 3297 eliminates the vehicle safety inspection program managed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for non-commercial vehicles
- Commercial vehicles are still required to obtain a passing safety inspection prior to registration.
- If you reside in one of the following 17 counties, obtaining a passing emissions inspection prior to registration is still required: Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis, Williamson.
- An inspection station locator is available on the Texas Department of Public Safety website at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/apps/rsd/vi/VlactiveStationLocator/>.
- Proof of vehicle insurance will be required at the time of inspection.

3. Apply for a Texas title and/or registration in person at your local county tax office; see

<https://www.txdmv.gov/taxassessor-collectors/county-tax-offices> for a list of county tax offices. Take the following with you:

- Title or out-of-state registration receipt.
- Completed Application for Texas Title and/or Registration (Form 130-U), which is available at https://www.txdmv.gov/sites/default/files/form_files/130-U.pdf. Detailed instructions for completing the application are available at https://www.txdmv.gov/sites/default/files/form_files/VTR-130-UIF.pdf. Check the Registration Purposes Only box if you are not surrendering the out-of-state title. If not required to obtain an emissions inspection, self-certify the vehicle identification number on the Application for Texas Title and/or Registration (Form 130-U).
- Your current driver's license or government-issued photo identification. See <https://www.txdmv.gov/photoid-requirements> for photo identification requirements.
- Proof of current vehicle insurance.
- Fees: Contact your local county tax office in Texas for the exact fee amount and acceptable payment methods, as these vary by county.

4. Apply for a Texas driver license through the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS).

- Information for new residents is available on the TxDPS website at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/moving-texas>.
- General information about Texas driver license and ID services is available on the TxDPS website at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license>