FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Instructions - Application for Refund Sales and Use Tax

Did you Know? You may begin the refund process by completing the application online.

Florida law requires that refund applications be supported with sufficient information and documentation to determine eligibility and the refund amount due. Form DR-26SN (*Instructions – Application for Refund Sales and Use Tax*) provides the information and documentation required for some common refund claims.

Use **Form DR-26S** when requesting a refund for:

- Sales and Use Tax
- County Discretionary Sales Surtax
- Amusement Machine Certificate Fees
- Transient Rental Tax Paid to the Department
- Solid Waste Fees
  - Battery Fees
  - Rental Car Surcharge
  - New Tire Fees
  - Gross Receipts Tax on Dry Cleaning
- Prepaid Wireless Fee
- Exemptions by Refund:
  - Building Materials Used in Construction of Affordable Housing Units
  - Community Contribution Tax Credit
  - Florida Neighborhood Revitalization Program
  - Home Hardening Products
  - Motor Vehicle Warranty Repurchase or Replacement (Lemon Law)
  - New/Expanding Business Equipment
  - Public Works - Universities and Colleges
  - Florida Rural Areas of Opportunity

You may choose to submit the required information and documentation electronically instead of providing paper copies. Contact **Refunds** at **(850) 617-8585** for more information.

Upon receipt, the Department will review your application and the supporting information and documentation. You will be notified if additional information or documentation is needed.

All applications for refund must contain:

- A detailed explanation of how the refund amount was computed;
- The specific reason(s) for the refund request;
- The dates when the overpayment or payment in error occurred; and
- Sufficient information and documentation for the Department to determine eligibility for the refund and the amount of the refund claim due.

The following instructions contain the information and documentation required for some common refund claims.

Amended Replacement Return

- A copy of the original sales and use tax return.
- A copy of the amended replacement sales and use tax return.
- A copy of the source documents indicating the amount of Florida tax billed to the purchaser (invoices, bills of sale, leases, or contracts).
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating the amount of tax reported and paid to the Department and the amount of the overpayment.
- If tax was collected and paid on a tax-exempt sale:
  - A copy of the documentation required to exempt the sale (copy of the customer's Annual Resale Certificate, Florida Consumer's Exemption Certificate, Direct Pay Authority issued by the Department, or other Exemption Certificate or Affidavit).
  - A copy of the accounting records substantiating the amount of tax reported and paid to the Department.
  - A copy of the evidence that sales tax was collected and subsequently refunded to the customer (a copy of the customer's payment history; a copy of the front and back of the cancelled check refunding customer's payment; a copy of a credit memo issued to the customer).

- A copy of the accounting records substantiating that any tax refunded or credited to the customer did not reduce the amount of tax reported and paid to the Department on subsequent returns.

Audit, Self-Audit, Voluntary Disclosure, Stipulation Payment, or Overpayments of Billings, Penalties, or Tax Warrants

- The case number, business partner number, tax account number, or any other number used to identify the overpayment.
- A copy of the notice or agreement under which the overpayment occurred:
  - *Notice of Proposed Assessment* (DR-831).
  - Self-Audit Worksheet and Report, including supporting documentation.
  - Voluntary Disclosure, including supporting documentation.
  - Stipulation Time Payment Agreement.
  - Notice of Amount Due.
- A copy of the documentation evidencing payment (e.g., the electronic payment confirmation number, a copy of the front and back of your cancelled check, or a copy of the bank statement(s) indicating the payment).
- If applicable, a copy of the tax return for which the Notice of Amount Due was issued.
- If applicable, a written request for a waiver or reduction of the penalties assessed, including any necessary documentation to support the request.

Bad Debt

You must file this application with the Department within 12 months after tax paid on bad debts has been charged off for federal income tax purposes.

A dealer who reported and paid sales tax on the sale of items or services may take a credit or obtain a refund for any tax paid on the unpaid balance due on worthless accounts within 12 months following the month in which the bad debt is charged off for federal income tax purposes.

The dealer must substantiate:

- the original amount of tax paid;
- the amount of the bad debt and the applicable tax amount of the bad debt; and
- that the tax refund is applied for within the time established by section 212.17(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.).

See Rule 12A-1.012, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Include the following with your application:

- Schedule of bad debts written off for federal income tax purposes, including the name of the purchaser, the date of the original sale, the original taxable amount, the original Florida tax collected, the tax return on which the tax was paid to the Department, the amount of the original sale and the amount of the applicable tax, and the date of the journal entry writing off the bad debt for federal income tax purposes.
- A copy of the journal entry for the bad debt write-off for federal income tax purposes.
- A copy of the payment history for each customer's account for the time period during which the debt was incurred, the debt became worthless, and the debt was written off for federal income tax purposes.
- A copy of documents indicating the amount of the original sale and the Florida tax billed to the purchaser (e.g., invoices, bills of sale, leases, or contracts).
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating that the tax was reported and paid to the Department.
- A copy of the applicable sales and use tax returns.

Building Materials Used in Construction of Affordable Housing Units

- Form DR-26AH, *Building Materials Used in Construction of Affordable Housing Units - Application for Refund of Sales and Use Tax*, dated and signed by the applicant; and,
- The documentation required with Form DR-26AH.

Private-Label Credit Card Program Bad Debts

For purchases made through a private-label credit card program, the dealer may take a credit or obtain a refund for the tax remitted by the dealer on the unpaid balance due on consumer accounts or receivables found to be worthless. The credit or refund must be claimed within 12 months after the month in which the bad debt is charged off by the lender for federal income tax purposes. The dealer must use:

- An apportionment method; or
- A percentage derived from a sampling of the dealer's or lender's records according to a methodology agreed upon by the Department and the dealer.

See section 212.17, F.S.

Community Contribution Tax Credit

- A copy of the donation approval letter issued by the Florida Department of Commerce.

A community contribution tax credit against sales and use tax must be claimed as a refund of sales and use tax reported and paid on tax returns filed with the Department within the 12 months preceding the date of the application for refund. Only one application may be filed in any 12-month period.

Duplicate Payments to the Department

A copy of documentation evidencing the duplicate payments (e.g., the electronic payment confirmation numbers, a copy of the front and back of your cancelled checks, or a copy of the bank statement(s) indicating the duplicate payments).

Estimated Tax

Individual Account

- A copy of the sales and use tax returns (DR-15s) for the periods during which the overpayment occurred and for the period prior to the overpayment.
- If the business location is closed, a copy of the final sales and use tax return.

Consolidated Accounts

- A copy of sales and use tax returns (DR-15s and DR-7s for all locations) for the periods during which the overpayment occurred and for the period prior to the overpayment.
- If the business location is closed, a copy of the final sales and use tax return.

Exempt Sales

If you collected and paid tax to the Department on tax-exempt sales:

- A copy of the sales and use tax return on which the tax was paid on the exempt sale.
- A summary listing each invoice claimed, with the amount of sales tax paid and the amount to be refunded.
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating the amount of tax reported and paid on the sales and use tax return.
- A copy of the documentation required to exempt the sale (a copy of the customer's Annual Resale Certificate, Florida Consumer's Exemption Certificate, or Direct Pay Authority issued by the Department, or an exemption certificate based on the use of the property provided by the purchaser).
- A copy of the evidence that sales tax was collected and subsequently refunded to the customer (e.g., a copy of the customer's exemption certificate; copy of the customer's payment history; a copy of the front and back of the cancelled check refunding customer's payment; or a copy of the credit memo issued to the customer).
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating that any tax refunded or credited to the customer did not reduce the amount of tax reported and paid to the Department on a subsequent return.

If you paid tax to a dealer on a tax-exempt sale:

- Evidence the sales tax was paid to the dealer.
- Form DR-26A, *Assignment of Rights to Refund of Tax*, issued by the selling dealer.
- A copy of the documentation required to exempt the sale (a copy of the customer's Annual Resale Certificate, Florida Consumer's Exemption Certificate, Direct Pay Authority issued by the Department, or an Exemption Certificate or Affidavit).

Florida Neighborhood Revitalization Program

- Form DR-26RP, *Florida Neighborhood Revitalization Program Application for Sales and Use Tax*, dated and signed by the applicant; and
- The information and documentation required on Form DR-26RP.

You must file this application, Form DR-26RP (*Florida Neighborhood Revitalization Program Application for Sales and Use Tax*), and the required information and documentation with the Department within 6 months after the date the qualified single-family home, housing project, or mixed-use project is deemed to be substantially complete by the local building inspector.

Florida Rural Areas of Opportunity

- Form RAO, *Rural Areas of Opportunity Application for Certification - Exempt Goods and Services Sales Tax Refund*, dated and signed by the applicant and the Florida Department of Commerce.
- A copy of the approval letter issued by the Florida Department of Commerce.
  See section 212.08(5)(q), F.S.

You must file this application, Form RAO (*Rural Areas of Opportunity Application for Certification - Exempt Goods and Services Sales Tax Refund*) approved and signed by the Florida Department of Commerce, and the Florida Department of Commerce approval letter with the Department within 6 months after the date the qualified new construction is deemed to be substantially complete by the local building inspector, or by November 1 of the year the new construction is first subject to assessment for ad valorem tax purposes.

Home Hardening Products Used on Eligible Residential Property

- Form DR-26HH, *Home Hardening Products Sales Tax Refund*, dated and signed by the applicant.
- Copies of receipts showing payment of Florida sales tax on the retail purchase of home hardening product(s).

See section 212.08(21), F.S.

Machinery and Equipment Used in New or Expanding Businesses

- A copy of the New and Expanding Business Determination Letter issued by the Department.
- If applicable, a copy of the Temporary Tax Exemption Permit issued by the Department.

Mobile Homes

Purchase of a Mobile Home as Real Property

The sale or transfer of a mobile home which bears an "MH" decal issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is subject to tax. The sale or transfer of a mobile home and land sold together is not subject to sales tax, provided that the seller owned both the mobile home and the land and that the mobile home bore an "RP" decal at the time of sale. "RP" decals are issued by your county tax collector.

To receive a refund of Florida sales tax paid on a mobile home sold with land, the purchaser must timely file an application for refund and provide the following documentation to the Department to substantiate the refund claim:

- A copy of the evidence that the seller owned both the land and the mobile home (copy of title of the mobile home and the deed to the land on which the mobile home is permanently affixed).
- A copy of the evidence that the county property appraiser assessed the property and the mobile home as real property prior to or at the time of sale (copy of the certificate issued by the property appraiser stating that the mobile home is included in the assessment of the property on which the mobile home is permanently affixed) or evidence that an "RP" decal was issued for the mobile home prior to or at the time of sale.
- A copy of the evidence of the sale or purchase price of the mobile home and land and the sales tax on the mobile home (copy of the purchase contract and closing statement and the cancelled check for payment required by the purchase contract).
- If applicable, a copy of the evidence of the Florida sales tax paid on the sales price of the mobile home to the county tax collector or private tag agent (copy of the mobile home registration and the cancelled check paying the sales tax and registration and license fees).
- Form DR-26A, *Assignment of Rights to Refund of Tax,* when the sales tax was paid to a dealer or to a private tag agency.

Appurtenances to Mobile Homes by Persons Not in the Business of Selling Mobile Homes

Appurtenances that are sold in conjunction with a mobile home bearing an "MH" decal, such as carports, sunrooms, utility sheds, furniture, freezers, refrigerators, drapes, or air conditioner compressor/condenser units located outside the mobile home, are not subject to tax when:

- Each appurtenance is separately described and priced on an invoice, bill of sale, or other tangible evidence of sale; and
- The sale is made by any person who is not in the business of selling mobile homes.

When the charge for an appurtenance is not separately described or priced from the charge for the mobile home, the total consideration paid for the mobile home and the appurtenance is subject to tax. The internal plumbing, heating, air conditioning, electrical systems, and attached items, such as built-in ovens, built-in dishwashers, hot water heaters, and built-in furniture, are considered a part of the mobile home and are subject to tax when sold with the mobile home, even when separately itemized on an invoice, bill of sale, or other tangible evidence of sale. When Florida sales tax is paid on furnishings or attachments to a mobile home purchased from a person not in the business of selling mobile homes, the purchaser may file this application for refund with the Department.

Include the following with your application:

- A copy of the evidence of the sale or purchase price of the mobile home and the sale or purchase price of each appurtenance separately described (copy of the bill of sale, invoice, or other tangible evidence of sale; copy of the cancelled check for purchase of the mobile home and appurtenances).
- A copy of the evidence of the Florida sales tax paid on the sale price of the mobile home and the appurtenances to the county tax collector or private tag agency (a copy of the mobile home registration and the cancelled check paying the sales tax and registration and license fees).
- Form DR-26A, *Assignment of Rights to Refund of Tax,* when the sales tax was paid to a private tag agency.

Motor Vehicles

Any business or individual who has paid Florida sales or use tax to a county tax collector that was not due may apply for a refund with the Department. If sales tax was paid to a dealer or to a private tag agency, the refund must be requested from the dealer or private tag agency; however, when the dealer or private tag agency issues a Form DR-26A, *Assignment of Rights to Refund of Tax*, the business or individual may request a refund directly from the Department.

Vehicles Exported from Florida

Florida sales tax does not apply to the sale of a motor vehicle that is irrevocably committed to the exportation process at the time of sale. No refund will be issued for Florida sales tax paid on a motor vehicle delivered to the purchaser or his or her representative in Florida, even though the vehicle is later exported from Florida.

The purchaser must establish that the selling dealer was required by the terms of the sales contract to deliver the property to a carrier, licensed customs broker, or forwarding agent for final movement of the property to a destination located outside Florida, and that the purchaser did not take possession of the motor vehicle in Florida. Include the following with your application:

- A copy of the sales contract.
- A copy of common carriers' receipts, bills of lading, or similar documentation that evidences the delivery destination.
- If applicable, a copy of an export declaration, receipts from a licensed customs broker, or other proof of export signed by a customs officer.

Vehicles Purchased by Residents of Another State

Florida law allows a partial exemption for a motor vehicle purchased by a resident of another state. The Florida tax due is the amount of sales tax that would be imposed by the purchaser's home state if the vehicle were purchased in that state, not to exceed the Florida state sales tax rate. A list of each state's rate is published in an annual Taxpayer Information Publication and posted to the Department's website.

To qualify for the partial exemption, the nonresident purchaser must complete an *Affidavit for Partial Exemption of Motor Vehicle Sold to a Resident of Another State* (Form DR-123), declaring his or her intent to license the vehicle in his or her home state within 45 days of the date of sale. The completed form must be provided to the selling dealer at the time of sale, or to the county tax collector or licensed private tag agency when the nonresident purchaser applies for a temporary license plate.

When a nonresident purchaser pays Florida state sales tax in an amount that exceeds the state tax due on motor vehicles in the nonresident purchaser's state of residence, the nonresident purchaser may receive a refund. When applying to the Department, include the following with your application:

- A copy of the evidence of the sale or purchase price of the motor vehicle and the amount of Florida sales tax paid (a copy of the bill of sale and the cancelled check for purchase of the vehicle).
- A copy of the evidence of the payment of Florida sales tax when obtaining a temporary Florida license tag (a copy of the Florida Vehicle Registration and the cancelled check paying the license fees).
- A copy of the evidence of the registration of the vehicle issued by the purchaser's home state (a copy of the home state's vehicle registration).
- A copy of the completed *Affidavit for Partial Exemption of Motor Vehicle Sold to a Resident of Another State* (Form DR-123) provided to the selling dealer, county tax collector, or private tag agency at the time of purchase or when registering the vehicle.
- Form DR-26A, *Assignment of Rights to Refund of Tax*, when the sales tax was paid to a Florida dealer or to a private tag agency.

Vehicles Used in Another State for Six Months or Longer

No Florida sales tax or local discretionary sales surtax is due on a motor vehicle registered or licensed in Florida when documentation is provided that:

- The current owner of the vehicle has owned and used the vehicle for six months or longer in another state, territory of the United States, or District of Columbia; and
- The vehicle was used under conditions that would lawfully give rise to the taxing jurisdiction of the other state, territory, or District of Columbia.

If you paid sales tax to another state, territory, or District of Columbia and you paid Florida use tax at the time of registration in Florida when no Florida use tax was due, use this application to apply for a refund.
Include the following with your application:

- A copy of the evidence of registration of the vehicle issued in another state and a copy of the evidence of payment of a like tax that was lawfully imposed and paid in another state (a copy of another state's vehicle registration and payment of tax, and a copy of the cancelled check(s) paying the tax and registration fees).
- A copy of the evidence of the Florida use tax paid when registering the vehicle in Florida (a copy of the Florida Vehicle Registration and the cancelled check paying the tax and registration and license fees).
- Form DR-26A, *Assignment of Rights to Refund of Tax,* when the tax was paid to a private tag agency.

Motor Vehicle Warranty Repurchase or Replacement (Lemon Law)

When a manufacturer repurchases the motor vehicle under the motor vehicle sales warranty requirements of section 681.104, F.S., the manufacturer may seek a refund of the amount of Florida sales tax and surtax refunded by the manufacturer to the consumer, lien holder, or lessor.
Include the following with your application:

- A copy of the sales invoice issued by the seller which affirmatively demonstrates payment of Florida tax on the purchase of the motor vehicle.
- A copy of the written agreement repurchasing the motor vehicle.
- A copy of documentation which evidences that the manufacturer refunded the Florida tax to the consumer, lien holder, or lessor.

Real Property Leases

- A copy of the lease, sublease, and addendum.
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating the Florida tax reported and paid on the sales and use tax return.
- A copy of the evidence that sales tax was collected and subsequently refunded to customer (a copy of the customer's payment history; a copy of the front and back of the cancelled check refunding customer‘s payment; or a copy of a credit memo issued to the customer).
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating that any tax refunded or credited to the customer did not reduce the amount of tax reported and paid to the Department on a subsequent return.

Repossessed Merchandise

When a dealer remitted sales tax to the Department on the sale of a tangible personal property (including aircraft, boats or vessels, mobile homes, and motor vehicles) sold under a retail installment, title loan, retain title, conditional sale, or similar contract for which the dealer retains a security interest in the property, the dealer may, upon repossession of the property, take a credit on a subsequent return or obtain a refund of that portion of the sales tax that is applicable to the unpaid balance of the contract. The credit or refund is based on the ratio that the total sales tax bears to the unpaid balance of the sales price, excluding finance or other nontaxable charges, as reflected in the sales contract. **See Rule 12A-1.012, F.A.C.**

You must file this application with the Department within 12 months following the month in which the merchandise was repossessed.

Include the following with your application:

- A completed and signed *Schedule of Tax Credits Claimed on Repossessed Tangible Personal Property* (Form DR-95B).
- A copy of documents for the sale of the property indicating the sales price of the property and the Florida sales tax (a copy of the invoice or bill of sale).
- A copy of the financing agreement for the sale of the property (a copy of the retail installment, title loan, retain title, conditional sales, or similar contract).
- A copy of the sales and use tax return on which the Florida sales tax was reported and paid to the Department.
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating that the amount of tax reported included tax paid on the property that was subsequently repossessed.
- A copy of the purchaser's payment history for the property.
- A copy of documentation which establishes that the property was repossessed (e.g., a copy of a certificate of title or a repossession title for aircraft, boats or vessels, mobile homes, and motor vehicles; evidence establishing possession and ownership of repossessed property that is not titled property).
- A copy of documentation establishing that the dealer who sold the property financed the property or that the property was financed by a financing institution with recourse (the dealer became liable for the outstanding debt when the customer defaulted on the retail installment, title loan, retain title, conditional sale, or similar contract financing the property).

Tangible Personal Property Incorporated into Public Works (State Universities and Florida College System Institutions)

- Form DR-26PW, *Refund of Sales Tax Paid on Tangible Personal Property Incorporated into Public Works (State Universities and Florida College System Institutions)*, dated and signed by the applicant.
- Public Works Refund Worksheet.
- A copy of the Florida *Consumer's Certificate of Exemption* issued to the state university or college.
- A copy of each invoice showing the purchase of tangible personal property that became part of the public works project and payment of Florida sales tax on such tangible personal property.

See section 212.08(6)(e), F.S.

Transient Rentals

A dealer who reported and paid local option transient rental taxes to the Department that are administered by the local taxing authority may take a credit or obtain a refund of the local tax paid to the Department in error. Include the following with your application:

- A copy of the original sales and use tax return.
- A copy of the amended replacement sales and use tax return.
- A copy of the local government tax return(s) for the same reporting period.
- A copy of the accounting records substantiating the amount of local option transient rental tax paid to the Department in error.

Contact Us

Information and tutorials are available at **floridarevenue.com/taxes/education**.

Tax forms and brochures are available at **floridarevenue.com/forms**.

To speak with a Department of Revenue representative, call Taxpayer Services at (850) 488-6800, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. For a written reply to tax questions, email Taxpayer Services at **fdortaxpayerservices@floridarevenue.com**.

Subscribe to Receive Email Alerts from the Department.
Subscribe to receive an email for filing due date reminders, Tax Information Publications (TIPs), or proposed rules. Subscribe today at **floridarevenue.com/dor/subscribe**.

References

The following documents were mentioned in this form and are incorporated by reference in the rules indicated below. The forms are available online at **floridarevenue.com/forms**.

Form DR-26A	Assignment of Rights to Refund of Tax	Rule 12-26.008, F.A.C
Form DR-26AH	Building Materials Used in Construction of Affordable Housing Units - Application for Refund of Sales and Use Tax	Rule 12-26.008, F.A.C.
Form DR-26S	Application for Refund – Sales and Use Tax	Rule 12-26.008, F.A.C.
Form DR-26PW	Refund of Sales Tax Paid on Tangible Personal Property Incorporated into Public Works (State Universities and Florida College System Institutions)	Rule 12A-1.097, F.A.C.
Form DR-26HH	Home Hardening Products Sales Tax Refund	Emergency Rule 12ER26-1
Form DR-15	Sales and Use Tax Return	Rule 12A-1.097, F.A.C.
Form DR-7	Consolidated Sales and Use Tax Return	Rule 12A-1.097, F.A.C.
Form DR-26RP	Florida Neighborhood Revitalization Program Application for Sales and Use Tax	Rule 12-26.008, F.A.C.
Form RAO	Rural Areas of Opportunity Application for Certification Exempt Goods and Services Sales Tax Refund	Rule 12-26.008, F.A.C.
Form DR-123	Affidavit for Partial Exemption of Motor Vehicle Sold to a Resident of Another State	Rule 12A-1.097, F.A.C.
Form DR-95B	Schedule of Tax Credits Claimed on Repossessed Tangible Personal Property	Rule 12A-1.097, F.A.C.