

Auditor

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. What does LOST mean on my tax bill?

A. **L**ocal **O**ption **S**ales **T**ax, which is a credit to you from the collection of the one-cent sales tax.

Q. What is the Homestead Exemption and who is eligible for it?

A. The South Carolina Homestead Exemption is for a homeowner who is a legal resident of South Carolina as of **December 31 preceding the tax year of exemption**, who is 65 years of age, who is declared totally disabled by a state or federal agency having the authority to make such a declaration, or who is legally blind as certified by a licensed ophthalmologist registered with the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. The program exempts up to \$50,000 of the value of the property.

Q. If I want to transfer my license plate to a newer vehicle will I have to pay the difference in the taxes?

A. No, you will not pay taxes on the newer vehicle until it's time to renew the license plate.

Q. Do I return a license plate to the Auditors Office?

A. No, all license plates are turned in to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Q. Do I have to pay property taxes before transferring a tag?

A. No, if the tag being transferred has not expired, go directly to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Q. Do I have to pay property tax when I first purchase a boat?

A. No, property taxes on boats purchased during the year are not paid until the following year. You will need to contact the Department of Natural Resources in Columbia, SC (803-734-3857) for further instructions on registering watercraft.