

Additional Information

California Use Tax General Information

The use tax has been in effect in California since July 1, 1935. It applies to purchases from out-of-state sellers and is similar to the sales tax paid on purchases you make in California.

In general, you must pay California use tax on purchases made from out of state (for example, by telephone, by mail, or in person) if:

- The seller does not collect California sales or use tax, and
- You use, give away, store, or consume the item in this state.

Example: You live in California and purchase a dining table from a company in North Carolina. The company ships the table from North Carolina to your home for your use and does not charge California sales or use tax. You owe use tax on the purchase.

Complete the Use Tax Worksheet on page 14 or page 22 to calculate the amount due.

Extensions to file. If you request an extension to file your income tax return, wait until you file your return to report your purchases subject to use tax and make your use tax payment.

Penalty. To avoid late payment penalties for use tax, you must report and pay the use tax with a timely filed income tax return.

Changes in use tax reported. Do not file an Amended Income Tax Return to revise the use tax previously reported. If you have changes to the amount of use tax previously reported on your the original return contact the State Board of Equalization.

For assistance with your use tax questions, please visit the State Board of Equalization's Website at www.boe.ca.gov or call their Information Center at (800) 400-7115 or TTY/TDD (800) 735-2929. Income tax information is not available at this number.

Collection Fees

The FTB is required to assess collection and filing enforcement cost recovery fees on delinquent accounts.

Deceased Taxpayers

A final return must be filed for a person who died in 2005 if a return normally would be required. The administrator or executor, if one is appointed, or beneficiary must file the return. Please print "deceased" and the date of death next to the taxpayer's name at the top of the return.

If you are a surviving spouse and no administrator or executor has been appointed, you may file a joint return if you did not remarry during 2005. Indicate next to your signature that you are the surviving spouse.

You may also file a joint return with an administrator or executor acting on behalf of the deceased taxpayer.

If you file a return and claim a refund due to a deceased taxpayer, you are certifying under penalty of perjury either that you are the legal representative of the deceased taxpayer's estate (in this case, you must attach certified copies of the letters of administration or letters testamentary) or that you are entitled to the refund as the deceased's surviving relative or sole beneficiary under the provisions of the California Probate Code. You must also attach a copy of federal Form 1310, Statement of Person Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer, or a copy of the death certificate when you file a return and claim a refund due.

Innocent Spouse Relief

You may qualify for relief from liability for tax on a joint return if (1) there is an understatement of tax because your spouse omitted income or claimed false deductions or credits, (2) you are divorced, legally separated, or no longer living with your spouse, and (3) given all the facts and circumstances, it would be unfair to hold you liable for the tax. Get FTB Pub. 705, *Innocent Spouse – Are you eligible?*, for more information.

Military Personnel

If you are a member of the military and need additional information on how to file your return, get FTB Pub. 1032, *Tax Information for Military Personnel*. See "Order Forms and Publications" on the back cover.

Homeowner and Renter Assistance

Homeowner assistance is a once-a-year payment from the State of California as a reimbursement for part of the property taxes you paid on your home. If eligible, you could receive up to 96% of the property taxes you paid in the prior year. In 2005, you would have qualified for this assistance if you:

- Were one of the following on December 31, 2004: 62 years of age or older, blind, or disabled; and
- Owned your home and lived in it on December 31, 2004, had total household income of \$39,699 or less, and were a U.S. citizen, designated alien, or qualified alien, when you file your claim.

Renter assistance is a once-a-year payment from the State of California as a reimbursement for part of the property taxes that you pay indirectly when you pay your rent. In 2005, you would have qualified for this assistance if you:

- Were one of the following on December 31, 2004: 62 years of age or older, blind, or disabled; and
- Paid \$50 or more rent per month in the prior year, had total household income of \$39,699 or less, and were a U.S. citizen, designated alien, or qualified alien when you file your claim.

The 2005 filing season ends June 30, 2006.

The 2006 filing season for these programs begins July 1, 2006. For more information, call (800) 868-4171 or visit us at our Website at www.ftb.ca.gov.

Requesting a Copy of Your Tax Return

The FTB keeps personal income tax returns for three and one-half years from the original due date. To obtain a copy of your return, you must write a letter or complete form FTB 3516, Request for Copy of Personal Income Tax or Fiduciary Return. In most cases, there is a \$20 fee for each tax year you request. However, there is no charge if you were the victim of a designated California or federal disaster; or you request copies from a field office that assisted you in completing your return. See "Order Forms and Publications" on the back cover.

Mello-Roos

You cannot deduct Mello-Roos if they are assessed to fund local benefits and improvements that tend to increase the value of your property. Mello-Roos taxes may appear on your annual county property tax bill with other deductible property taxes. That does not mean you can deduct the Mello-Roos taxes. You may only be able to deduct a portion of the total property tax shown on your bill.

For more information, you can:

- Contact your Mello-Roos District.
- Get federal Pub. 17, *Your Federal Income Taxes-Individuals*, Chapter 24.

Vehicle License Fees for Federal Schedule A

On your federal Schedule A, you may deduct the California motor vehicle license fee listed on your Vehicle Registration Billing Notice from the Department of Motor Vehicles. The other fees listed on your billing notice such as registration fee, weight fee, and county fees are not deductible.

Voting Is Everybody's Business

You may register to vote if you meet these requirements:

- You are a United States citizen;
- You are a resident of California;
- You will be 18 years old by the date of the next election; and
- You are not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony.

You need to re-register every time you move, change your name, or wish to change political parties. In order to vote in an election, you must be registered to vote at least 15 days before that election. To obtain a Voter Registration Card, call the California Secretary of State's office toll-free voter hotline at (800) 345-VOTE or visit their Website at www.ss.ca.gov.

It's Your Right . . . Register and Vote